



Thanking you all for a great year!
Happy holidays to you and yours!
See you next year!

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming soon!

Pot Luck Party for Drawing and Picture Books and Medical Care and Disaster, Part 2 ~ "Plus one item in your emergency bag!"

Venue: 1.13 13:30~ Kobe Student Youth Center

Please see pp.7 - 8 for details!



Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Agnes-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "I felt peaceful when I was in a strange place and someone smiled at me."

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: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !



Popoki at Public Lectures

Ronyan

Recently, I have been giving lectures in various places. When I am asked to speak, sometimes I am asked to do something with Popoki, and sometimes the request is just for me. But even if the request is just for me, Popoki always shows up anyway.

The other day, I was asked by a hibakusha who I have known for a long time to give a workshop on peace with Popoki. I like and respect this person very much, so of course I agreed and Popoki and I went to Tokyo. The workshop was sponsored by an association of atomic bomb survivors in Suginami-ku called Koyukai. The event

began with a testimony by a survivor of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, followed by the workshop. A very important foundation of my understanding of peace was formed when I worked at the Hiroshima YMCA years ago, and I was a bit nervous to be talking about peace to an audience of hibakusha. But I was also very happy for the opportunity to meet an old friend. I spoke about my time in Hiroshima, Popoki, peace, and other things. Then I asked people in the audience to raise their hand if it has been more than twenty years since they drew with crayons. Almost everyone raised their hand. But when I distributed paper and crayons and asked them to make group drawings of a 'peaceful town' they all began to draw. Soon, their faces relaxed into smiles and some people began to laugh. When we shared our work, the president of Koyukai stepped forward as an amusing and interesting critic, making everyone laugh. But during the question time, there were thought-provoking questions such as, "Can we really preserve peace and order without weapons?" or "Please give a message about what everyone can do for peace." Laughter, chatting, surprises, sharing, discoveries, learning.... It was an event for peace, but maybe also one that could be held because we have peace. I hope everyone stays well and that I can continue to learn together with you in the future.

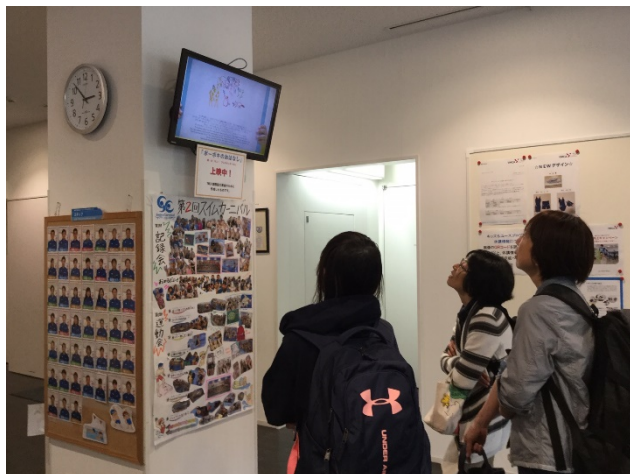


* One person shared a memory with me. "At that time, I was having a really hard time emotionally. I had to speak, but my mind became totally blank. Then I met Popoki. He really saved me."

Another lecture was at the National Institute of Technology, Oita College (Oita Kosen). It is about 4 1/2 hours from Kobe to Oita by train. The topic of my lecture was diversity, and of course Popoki went with me and showed up in the presentation. Does diversity mean that everyone is similar? Does it mean that everyone is completely different? Sometimes Popoki was crying, other times dancing or doing other things. Thanks to Popoki, the atmosphere became more relaxed. The subject of LGBTQI was hard for some of the audience to understand, but Popoki made it easier for them to listen. Oita is known for its hot springs, but I wasn't able to enjoy a bath. Maybe next time! I did enjoy an amazingly warm welcome, though and great food and company. It was a good trip. The best part is that now Popoki has friends in Oita, too. Thank you all so much!

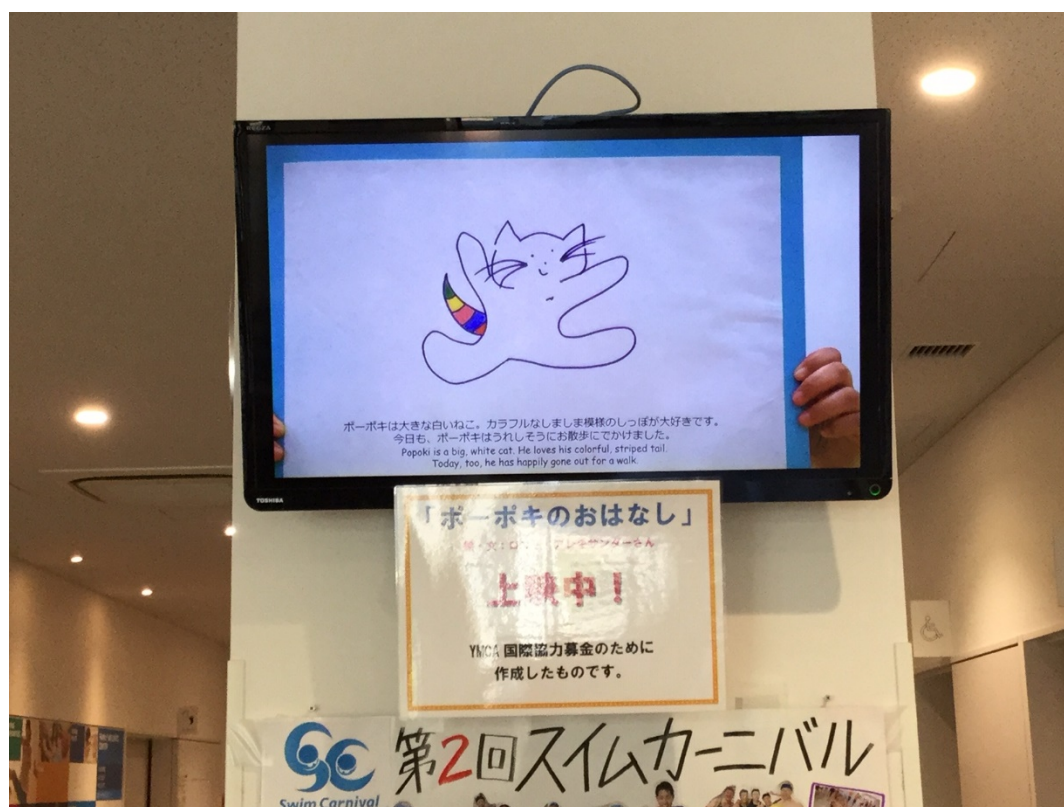
Popoki helps YMCA International Cooperation Fundraising Campaign this year, too

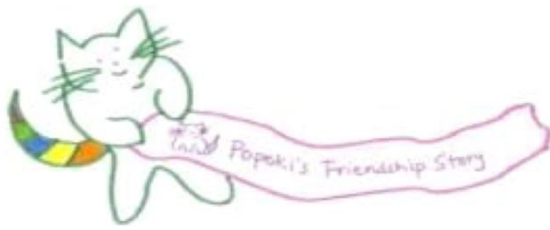
Ronyan



Last year, with the help of the Kobe YMCA International committee, I made a Popoki kamishibai story. Popoki is crying, but all the animals walk by, ignoring him. The Penguin arrives with fish. He gives one to Popoki and invites all the animals to eat, too. “They laugh at me because I’m different” changed into “We can have fun, even though everyone is different.” YMCA international cooperation funds are used to help change tears into smiles, too.

Recently, when I go to the Kobe YMCA, they are playing a video of the Popoki story on the lobby television screen. Just looking at it makes me happy. It is no doubt obvious, but I really love Popoki. And I really want to keep on being involved in activities where Popoki helps to dry people’s tears!





Popoki's Interview

Michiko Nagai Matsuda

Interviewer : Satonyan

Encountering Popoki

Q: When did you first meet Popoki?

A: In 2006, before the first book was published, we did a workshop with Popoki at an international YMCA gathering. There were people from many different countries and it was so interesting to see how Popoki helped them all to communicate with each other.

Q: Since that time, you have been involved with Popoki in many different situations. What do you think of Popoki's activities?

A: It has been ten years, and finally people are beginning to understand what it is all about. Even if the topic changes, the underlying idea of Popoki is always the same. Recently, people have begun to talk about engaging with different topics, but Popoki has been doing it, and using art, from the outset. At first, when Prof. Alexander (Ronyan) had participants engage in work using expression but not speech, I didn't really understand, but now I do. If we use people as models, then there is resistance, but using an animal makes it easier for people to accept and they don't resist.

There are lots of changes to participate and enjoy oneself, but particularly Japanese people think that adults have to be serious. But here comes Popoki, defying convention and norms and

using the five senses and art. Before they know what is happening, people find themselves feeling relieved and relaxed.

I hope I can continue to engage with Popoki from now on, too.

Ronyan: People suddenly realize that Popoki is sitting silently beside them. They feel warmth and safety, and something begins to change. I'm not sure if it meets the pace of our busy age, but I think it might be what a lot of people are looking for.

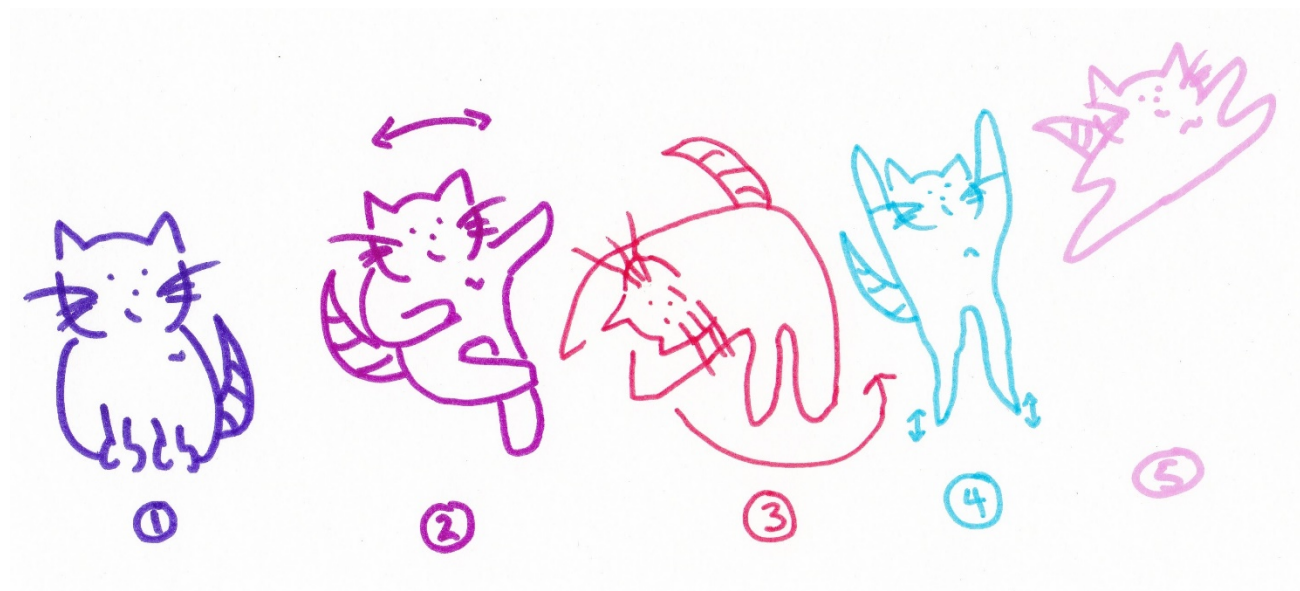
Michikonyan, Ronyan, thank you!



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 127

This month's theme is dancing!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, let's dance! Swing to the left! Swing to the right!
3. Next, swing in a circle, touching the floor as you go one way, and then back the other way.
4. Finally, up, up on your tiptoes and twirl!
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: 2019.1.30 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai (near JR Rokkomichi)!

12.25 Ponenkai!

1.13 13:30~ Thinking about being safe/feeling safe with Popoki event (Tentative)

Venue: Kobe Student Youth Center See p.7-8

2018.2.7-12 Popoki in Otsuchi and Ofunato!

From Popoki's friends:

New children's book: text: Seiko Chujo; translation: Ronni Alexander, *The Cans of Forest* (English/Japanese version), Epic, 2017.

絵と絵本と医療と災害の持ち寄りパーティ Part 2

Pot Luck Party with Drawings & Picture Books & Medical Care & Disaster



「避難袋に十一品」 "+One Item in your Emergency Kit"

「皆で安全・安心を描こう！安全・安心な社会を語ろう」

"Let's draw being and feeling safe!"

Let's talk about a society where we can be and feel safe"

日時 2019年1月13日(日) (13:30~16:00)

場所 神戸学生青年センター Kobe Student Youth Center

兵庫県神戸市灘区 山田町3丁目1-1 <http://ksyc.jp/>

問い合わせ先 ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト FAX 078-304-2790

Information Popoki Peace Project e-mail ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

メッセージ・Message



私たちは日常生活の中で、「不安」になるきっかけが多数あります。その一つは「災害」です。避難勧告が出たら、どうすればよいかは考えることがあっても、自分や周りの人を落ち着かせる方法や元気をつける方法まではあまり考えることがないと思います。私たちはみんな、不安がるものも安心できるきっかけも異なっています。今回の「もちよりパーティ」では、さまざまな「安心」をもちよって、より安心できる生活についてお話をします。

プログラム・Program

- 13:00 受付開始 Registration
- 13:30 あいさつ Greetings
- 13:40 トークタイム Talk time
- ゲスト Motonochi Saohiko
元持 幸子 さん (岩手県大槌町在住・特定非営利活動法人つどい 事務局長)
- ゲスト Akagi Shuji
赤城 修司 さん (福島市在住・写真家)
- 14:30 休憩タイム Break
- 14:40 紙芝居 「ポーポキ、安心、描ける？」
Kamishibai: "Popoki, Can you draw feeling safe?"
- 14:45 お絵描きタイム Drawing time
みんなで大きな絵を描きます！
Drawing a big picture together!
- 15:30 発表タイム Presentation time



主催：アート・災害・安心研究会 (神戸大学社会システムイノベーションセンター)

協力：ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト・神戸大学ユネスコチェア事業

絵と絵本と医療と災害の持ち寄りパーティ Part 2

Pot Luck Party with Drawings & Picture Books & Medical Care & Disaster 2

特別ゲスト紹介・Special guests



Motomochi Sachiko

元持 幸子 さん（もともち さちこ・MOTOMOCHI Sachiko）

特定非営利活動法人つどい 事務局長

東日本大震災時、緊急救援活動を岩手県釜石市・大槌町にて行う。翌年、故郷の大槌町を拠点とした「特定非営利活動法人つどい」を立ち上げ、住民の集まる場のコーディネートや人材育成等を行う。これまで、病院や地域医療・地域福祉分野で理学療法士として勤務、英国障害者施設や青年海外協力隊派遣などの経験も加わり、多様性ある暮らし・地域づくりを実践していきたいと活動中。震災復興に向け、住民力を出し合おうと結成された大槌町 NPO ボランティア団体連絡協議会の会長として、地域力向上を目指している。

Participates in emergency relief activities in Kamaishi and Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The following year, she established the NPO 'Tsudoi' in her hometown of Otsuchi, coordinating activities to give residents a place to gather and foster leadership. She has worked in healthcare as a physical therapist, and after gaining experience in a British facility for people with special needs and the Japan Overseas Volunteer Corps, she decided to work to create a lifestyle and community with respect for diversity. As the director of the Otsuchi-cho NPO Voluntary Organization Network, she is working toward recovery and the full implementation of cooperative community power.



赤城修司 さん（あかぎ しゅうじ・AKAGI Shuji）

1967 年、福島県生まれ。筑波大学芸術専門学群洋画コース卒業。青年海外協力隊員美術教師として 1994 年から 2 年間ブルガリアで活動。2011 年 3 月、東京電力福島第一原子力発電所事故をきっかけに、福島市内を写真で記録し、Twitter で発信し始める。2015 年、写真集「Fukushima Traces, 2011-2013」刊行（オシリス）。2016 年、BS11「アーサー・ビナード 日本人探訪」出演。出品展覧会に、2013 年「未来の体温 after AZUMAYA」（山本現代、アラタニウラノ）。2014 年「Transmission」（スタジオ 35 分）。2015 年「Don't follow the wind」（福島県の帰還困難区域内）。2016 年「種差デコンタ 2016」（八戸市美術館）、「Perpetual Uncertainty」（スウェーデン、ウメオ美術館）など。

1967 Born in Fukushima Prefecture. Graduated from the Western Painting Course in the Art Department of Tsukuba University. From 1994-1996, he worked as an art teacher in Bulgaria as a member of the Japan Overseas Volunteer Corps. 2011.3 After the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, he began taking photos in Fukushima City and publishing them on Twitter. 2015 Published collection of photos called *Fukushima Traces, 2011-2013* (Oshirisu). In 2016, he was featured on BS11 "Arthur Binard Looking for Japanese". Among his exhibitions are: "未来の体温 (Mirai no Taion) after AZUMAYA" (2013, Yamamoto Gendai, Arataniurano), "Transmission" (2014, Studio 35 minutes), "Don't follow the wind" (2015, in the Fukushima Pref. exclusion zone), "Species Difference Dekonta" 種差デコンタ 2016, (2016, Yao City Art Museum), "Perpetual Uncertainty" (2016, Umeo Art Museum, Sweden).



ポーポキ・Popoki

神戸生まれの平和が大好きなねこ。最近は安全安心に興味。みんなと友だち になって、仲良くしたい。

A cat born in Kobe who loves peace. He is interested in being and feeling safe and wants to be everyone's friend.

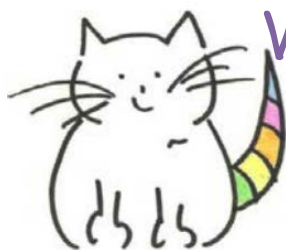
Popoki in Print * Back issues of Popoki News:



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- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>



What Popoki Means to Me

Nagisanyan

Three months ago, I took part in a Laos Work Camp organized by Kobe YMCA, through the introduction of Ronyan sensei. Although I have experienced a long stay in Laos before, I found many “new Laos” for me in this camp. I also got to have important friends. The camp became an unforgettable memory.

Please let me introduce one part of Lao culture called “Baci.” It is a ceremony that takes place when someone encounters his/her life events such as marriage, getting a new job, or leaving their families. The person winds white strings around his/her arms to wish for happiness and success. On the last day of our homestay at the village, my arms were also wound with a lot of strings. Wishing for someone’s happiness and having consideration for people around me every day.. In this work camp, I realized those important things that I had been forgetting in my busy life in Japan.

Thanks to Popoki and YMCA, his important friend, I could have these wonderful experiences. Now YMCA has many friends in Laos. I believe that our strong bond will never be broken. I would like to treasure every encounter I have. I will make more efforts to return the favor to every person who made this work camp happen.



At the Baci ceremony



Pak Mood Village where we stayed

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

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU

FROM

POPOKI!