



Newsletter No.203 2022.7.27

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http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

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July! It's hot! The weather is strange! War and conflict and violence!
There are so many bad things happening, but can you find small pieces
of joy? Here are some from Popoki!

Popoki's Hot News!

New!



New book!

Ronni Alexander (2022.2.22). *Popoki's Mask Gallery: Searching for
Everyday Anshin through Art during the Covid 19 Pandemic*. Kobe
University Press.

Summer Peace Event!



Join us on zoom on 9 August to think about nuclear issues and peace!
Details on page 7

Piece of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, *Besa-nyan*, sent the following piece of peace.
Peace is being able to learn safely and as much as you want.

What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by
sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !

Popoki's Video Gallery

Please have a look at Popoki's videos!

Popoki's Mask Gallery – Living the Covid-19 Pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjT1ZjVUsm8&t=3s>

Popoki's House

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8OCzg64oH8>

Let's make a Peace Pakupaku with the cat, Popoki

<https://youtu.be/FoT4pCWWRnQ>

Popoki's Peace Map

<https://youtu.be/4t4PFV-dRBg>

Ronni Alexander's Final Lecture at Kobe University (not Popoki, but...)

'Reflecting on the thirty years since Big Dreams and Small Islands, and looking toward tomorrow'

<https://youtu.be/trbxJSP7-CY>

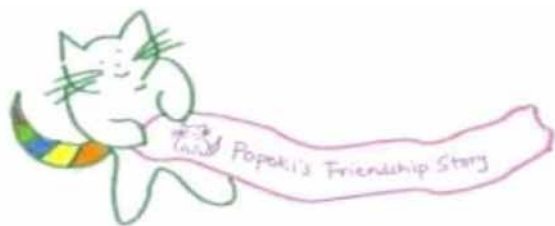
Peace Studies Association of Japan Kansai Area Study Group "Views on the Ukraine War" "Aspects we are not seeing, and our feelings of gloom"

Speakers: Anzai Ikuro, Ronni Alexander; Questions: Okumoto Kyoko, Endo Akari

<https://www.psaj.org/chiku-kansai/> Go to YouTube from this link (in Japanese only)



Popoki's Interview



Yakonyan

*We have been conducting interviews with Popoki's friends in different places and asking about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first of a 2-part series by Yakonyan about pets in the Czech Republic.

Interviewer: Yakonyan/ Interviewee: Lucienyan

Hello. I interviewed Lucienyan. She is my classmate in Cultural Studies. She worked at a non-profit organisation for pets in the Czech Republic. This time I asked her some questions from the view of peace and pets during the COVID-19 pandemic (The latter half of the interview will be in next month's issue of Popoki News

).

Q1) What kinds of activities did you do regarding pet animals in Czech Republic?

The organisation I work at (called Pet Heroes) has a lot of different projects, all of them focusing on helping animals in need. Most of our time and resources are dedicated to direct care for animals, but we also have education programs for both the general public and other animal non-profits. When it comes to direct care, there are two distinct projects. One is a city shelter that is under our organisation - it functions like a standard municipal shelter in the Czech Republic, meaning we take in animals without owners (which can mean stray animals, ones who have been abandoned, or even who have been taken away from their owners by the police because of mistreatment and animal abuse). Other than that, however we focus on handicapped or special needs animals. These are usually placed in foster care, as they often require more specific attention than a shelter can provide. They also often come to us from other shelters who cannot offer the medical care which is often expensive. We try to find a new forever home for every animal in our care, which is why the organisation pledges to always pay veterinary expenses that are caused by the handicap. As there is usually no insurance for pets, these expenses can be quite high and most ordinary people would not be able to afford them.

I personally have two handicapped cats. One has lost one eye due to infection and has an autoimmune disease. The other lost two legs in an accident and now has prosthetics. They are both wonderful and deal with their handicaps without any issue 😊 I however know that by myself I could never have provided for the cost of the prosthetics or the medicine for autoimmune disease.

We also try to facilitate cooperation between non-profits who share our goals! I for example oversee a storage of communal supplies, such as food, beds, medicine and other things. These are usually donated by people who want to help or sometimes charity drives organized around Christmas, etc. We then sort through the items and try to shift everything to where it's most needed.



(About the picture)

This is a picture of my cat (his name is Mojito) shortly after the surgery in which he received his prosthetics (you can see that the fur on his hind legs hasn't grown back yet)

Q2) How has been COVID-19 situation in Czech Republic?

The first wave of COVID saw quite strong lock down measures, but thanks to that, there were relatively few deaths. As society became less compliant with the preventive measures however, the number of infected people (and of deaths) increased. The majority of the population is now vaccinated, but the effects of the pandemic are still felt. Many people lost their jobs and struggled to find new ones, and businesses had to close down. Also, during the most intense time of the pandemic, hospitals temporarily stopped providing non-essential surgeries, to make more space for hospitalising patients with COVID. These surgeries are now being performed again, but it impacted people with for example, joint implants.

Q3) How have pet animals been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

The effect on animals was two-fold. First, as many people faced financial difficulties, they also struggled to provide for their pets. During COVID, we used a lot of the aforementioned supplies to give directly to people who were now struggling to get by. The second effect was somewhat less expected. There were people who during the lockdown, when everyone who could work from home did so, got a new pet. During that time, they could care for it. However, when they had to go back to work in person, many of them found it unsustainable and wanted to get rid of the animal. Shortly after the lockdown was lifted, we saw an increase in animals who ended up in shelters. (To be continued next month).



A Request from Popoki's Friend

Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, is expected to visit Japan to investigate the situation of international displaced persons. Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council to report on specific issues.

During her visit, she is expected to be talking with government officials as well as local citizens. On the part of the local community, it will be necessary to have funding for staff to accompany Ms. Jimenez-Damary, transportation costs, interpreters, translators, etc. In order to meet these expenses, we are calling on concerned people for contributions.

It has been 11 years since the Fukushima accident, but more than 30,000 people continue to be displaced and are living under difficult circumstances. As you all know well, Japan is a country that has many disasters. There is no way of knowing when or where the next disaster will strike. Keeping this in mind, Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced people, is planning to make an official visit to Japan beginning 26 September 2022. It is hoped that many people will recognize that the rights to life, dignity, freedom and safety of displaced people must not be violated during displacement, as outlined in the "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement" and in international human rights law.

We would very much appreciate your contribution to this investigation by the Special Rapporteur.

Video explaining the call for donations: <https://youtu.be/Yt2KzesUry4> (In Japanese)

Committee to Execute the visit to Japan by the UN Special Rapporteur for Internally Displaced People
<https://ceciliajimenezamary.livedoor.blog/> (Japanese)

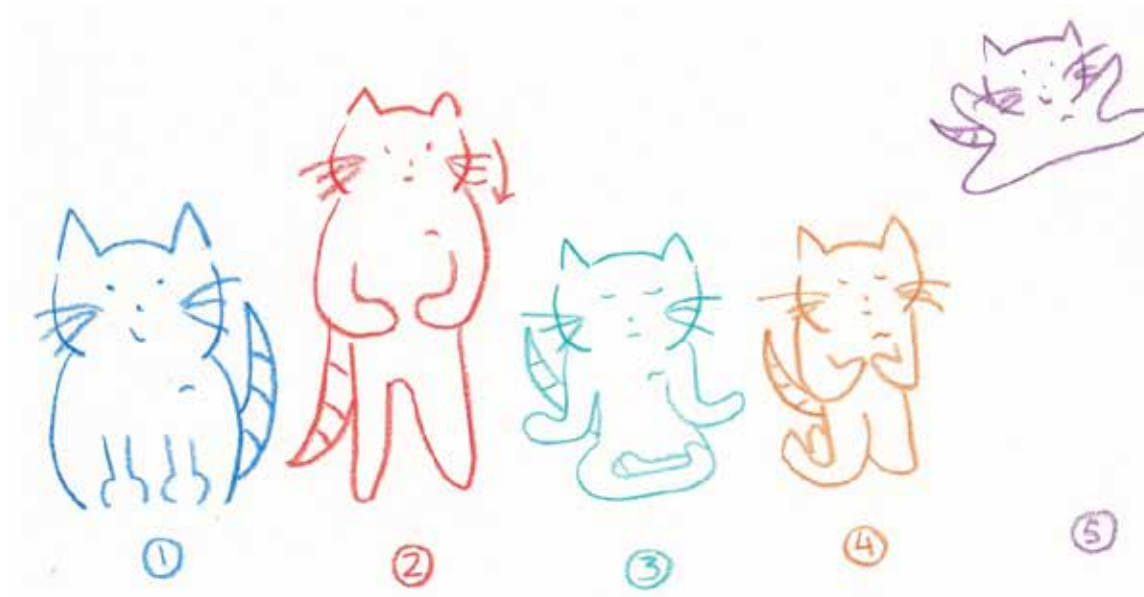
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POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 171 This month's theme is praying for peace!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand for a moment of silence. Don't forget to bow your head!
3. Next, how about sitting and mindfully calling for peace!
4. Okay! Now try kneeling in prayer!
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: 2022.8.22 @ 19:00 zoom*

Everyone is welcome. We always use the same link, so send an email if you need it.

- | 8.3 15:00~17:00 Popoki Workshop at Seminar for Multicultural Understanding (zoom).
- | 8.5 Popoki peace workshop at Kodomo Living, Part 2
- | 8.9 8:00am Conversation about nuclear issues with friends around the world (zoom)
- | 8.23 Popoki Peace workshop at La Clarte puppet theater (tentative)
- | 9.18 13:00~16:00 Nada Challenge!
- | 10.22 Peace and Health Workshop

Reading Suggestions from Popoki's Friends

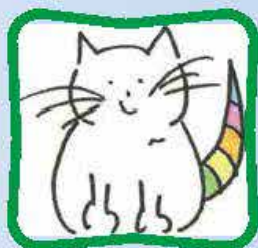
Otsuchi-cho (July, 2019). "Ikiru Akashi – Iwateken Otsuchi-cho Higashi nihon daishinsai kirokushi" (Testimony of Living: A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture). Editorial Supervision: Otsuchi-cho Board of Education, others.

・アレキサンダー ロニー & 桂木聡子 (2020)「被災体験後「今」を表現する : 絵から読み取れる被災ナラティブ」『国際協力論集』27(2)、17 - 32 (2020年1月発行) http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/detail

・Alexander, Ronni (2021) "The Meaning of Art in Disaster Support: Stories from the Popoki Peace Project" Journal of International Cooperation Studies, 28(2), 1-22. http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/detail

・Alexander, Ronni (2021) "The Meaning of Art in Disaster Support: Stories from the Popoki Peace Project" Journal of International Cooperation Studies, 29(2), 27-51. <http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gscs-publication/jics/>





SUMMER Peace Event



ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト・Popoki Peace Project
&
Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace

2022.8.9 08:00~10:00 (JST) on ZOOM!

Register In advance for this meeting:

https://kobe-u-ac-jp.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0vd-2vpJMvHdJtHyUnCs1_MA0BoAp7baPl

平和って、なんだろう？核兵器と平和とは、関係がありますか？

今、私たちにとって、核って、脅威ですか？

今年もアメリカ、フアハン・クアム、日本の仲間と動画を見て、

核と平和について考えたり、話したりしましょう！

What is peace? Is there a relationship between nuclear weapons and peace? Are nuclear weapons a threat to us now?

Please join friends from the United States, Guahan/Guam and Japan to think and talk about nuclear weapons and peace!

プログラム・Program

ごあいさつ・Greetings

動画鑑賞・Watching videos

(1) ピースマシーンの旅：ヒロシマ・ナガサキ編 (20分)

Peace Machine Journey: Hiroshima/Nagasaki (20 min.)

(2) 歴史上のすべての核爆弾の爆発 (3分)

All the nuclear weapons explosions in history (3 min.)

(3) 油そそがれた (6分) ・ Anointed (6 min.)

ディスカッション・Discussion



ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト・Popoki Peace Project

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編著・絵 ロニー・アレキサンダー
Written, edited and illustrated by Ronni Alexander

【本書の内容】

前書き

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「ことばの旅」への誘い

第二部：「お絵描き」の旅

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- ② くちゃぐちゃ
- ③ 色たち
- ④ いかなきゃ(桂木聡子)
- ⑤ 2021.1.17 に想う
- ⑥ 乱れ
- ⑦ プール

第三部：「ふりかえり」の旅

「ふりかえり」の旅

- ① ポーポキのマスクギャラリー — 基盤となる日本人の伝統的思考法を考える— (高田哲)
Popoki's Mask Gallery — A consideration based on traditional Japanese ways of thinking (Takada Satoshi)
- ② 対談：アナ・アガサングロウとロニー・アレキサンダー (世界国際関係学会年次研究大会2021年)
Conversation: Anna Agathangelou and Ronni Alexander (International Studies Association Annual Conference 2021)
- ③ ポーポキの旅: ポーポキのマスクギャラリーができるまでの道のり (ロニー・アレキサンダー)
Popoki's Journey: How Popoki's mask gallery came to be (Ronni Alexander)

後書き：新たな旅

今度はあなた

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An Invitation to take a Word Journey

Part II: A Drawing Journey

The Meaning of Drawing Stories

All Messed Up

Colors

I've Gotta Go (Katsuragi Satoko)

Thoughts on 17 January 2021

Confusion

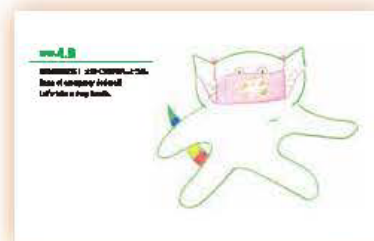
Pool

Part III: A Journey of Reflection

A Journey of Reflection

Epilogue: A New Journey

Now it is Your Turn



本文より抜粋



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Popoki in Print

* Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html

- Ø Art-stories as reflection: Learning from the Popoki Peace Project 国際協力論集 29(2) 27-51 2022-01 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81013055
- Ø The Meaning of Art in Disaster Support: Stories from the Popoki Peace Project 国際協力論集 28(2) 1-22 2021.1 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81012502
- Ø Gender, Disaster and Stories from Popoki : Learning from Women Survivors in Northeast Japan 国際協力論集 26(2) 17-37 2019.1 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81010618
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- Ø Drawing Disaster: Reflecting on Six Years of the Popoki Friendship Story Project 国際協力論集 25(2) 59-96 2018.01 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81010097
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- Ø "Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival," Kobe YMCA News No.652, July/August 2017, p.3
- Ø ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange <http://www.interpeople.or.jp>
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- Ø R. Alexander. "Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
- Ø "Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki" *Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News*, No.66, 2012.5.12
- Ø "Hope on 60 meters of cloth" Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) *Asahi Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- Ø "Voice for Peace made into a book" Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- Ø 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* 13:2, 2011, 257-263
- Ø S. McLaren. "The Art of Healing" (Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
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- Ø 省窓 : Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- Ø "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (*YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper*)
- Ø Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en 010.3.15
- Ø FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- Ø "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/>)
- Ø 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
- Ø 'Friendship' No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- Ø 'Not for But With...' No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- Ø 'Nada' notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- Ø 'Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.' *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- Ø 'Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,' *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- Ø 'New Books: Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2' (Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- Ø "Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published." (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- Ø 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
- Ø 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- Ø 'Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,' *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
- Ø Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese (No longer available)



What Popoki Means to Me

Kana Urai

I have touched Popoki's fluffy hair, when I visited Ronni sensei's (or Ronyan's) home. It is already almost 20 year's ago, I guess. I was trying to be his friend, but Popoki might not feel so nice. He got angry at me, and then said "No!" (maybe) in order to protest against my act. Ronni sensei told me that he was irritated, so it is better not to touch him. I thought he would feel good by being touched, but it was just my wrong impression. Some of Popoki's hair was left on my black fleece jacket, and it was my first and last physical contact with him.

I really think that it is tremendously difficult thing to be friends or understand each other. Popoki might dislike me, only leaving some hair on me. On the other hand, I did not intend to hurt him. On the contrary, my heart was filled with friendship. But, at that moment, peace and relief disappeared from him. Those things might often happen when "we" think that "we" are doing good to others, and accelerate "our" goodness, being blind to other's feelings and situation. Those things might happen not only between humans (or humans and cats), but also between some organizations, or between nations. As a result, our world might be filled with enormous violence and destruction.

Therefore, I really think that it is very difficult to realize peace, or a world with no war and no violence. I can't help thinking that those conflicts do not happen because of some evil people with evil intention. But on the contrary, people are trying to do good things for others, but it is far from those other people want or need. I can't help thinking that sad and tragic situations are caused by those kinds of misunderstandings. Just like Popoki shouted at me with fear, when I showed my friendly feeling to him.

How can we solve that misunderstanding? I don't have any reasonable answer, and that answer would never be found. But, still, we can learn. From tragic history, or from other country's situations, we can try to imagine whether we are making the same mistake or not. Popoki's project is one of those imaginative and learning opportunities for me. (But honestly speaking, I haven't joined in Popoki's activity for a while, so I can't say anything much, actually). If I could meet Popoki again, (not in a book, but in person) I would enjoy looking at his pretty face and body, and let him rest without disturbing him. Thanks to Popoki's project, I learn some, and I can imagine some. I want to make use of what I have learned from Popoki and his friends. That is what Popoki means to me.

The picture I attached is the wall which divides Palestine and Israel. (I joined the trip to Palestine from Popoki's project in August, 2008). For both sides, there are complicated stories and justice. I tried to figure out those complications, but still, I don't have any good answer. Did I really learn anything? Well, still, I want to believe that it might be important to keep thinking....



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: *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 outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. Write to us at ronniandpopoki@gmail.com and we'll figure it out!

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 ronniandpopoki@gmail.com



Contributions are always welcome!

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