



It is spring in Kobe, and the cherry blossoms will be out soon.
We hope your lives are filled with sunshine, flowers and happiness!



Popoki's Hot News

Popoki's Peace Book 2 Popoki, What Color is Friendship? is at the printers! It should be released at the end of March. Please help by placing orders for yourself and for your friends. For information, please contact: [popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

I may not be very objective, but in the process of making this book, I realized that the topic of friendship is very deep. It is a good topic for discussion with your family, friends and others. Enjoy! (Ronni)

As with Popoki's Peace Book 1, the proceeds from book sales will go to support the activities of the Popoki Peace Project. We hope that you will join us in spreading Popoki's circle of friends by buying a copy for yourself, introducing a friend to a copy and having your friend introduce yet another friend.

(Photo: Po-kai at the Kobe YMCA, 2009.2.17)

The members of the Popoki Peace Project are hard at work over the text which was sent by PDF file. They are making final corrections in the text, checking the drawings, thinking about colors.... It is hard work, and requires help from everyone to get it right.

If there is friendship all working hard together?
(Satoko)



Popoki at the YMCA Children's Traveling Art Exhibition for Peace Chinami DATE, Rika YUNOMAE

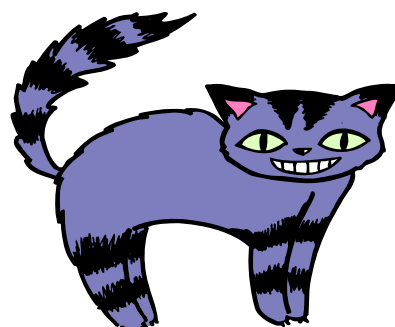
On 7th February, the annual “YMCA Children's Traveling Art Exhibition for Peace” opened at the Harada-no-mori Gallery in Kobe. Popoki appeared on the stage in the opening workshop! We read from Popoki's Peace Book with many participants. Unfortunately, there were no cats present, but I think there were some cat-people, elephant-people, and even some fox-people....

Then, on the 10th February, members of the International Voluntary Leaders group in the Kobe YMCA went to the exhibition with children. The children seemed to have many feelings about the art which was drawn by friends living in other countries. (The exhibition consists of drawings by children from YMCAs in Thailand, China, Taiwan and Seattle, USA).



Before we went to the exhibition, we made the island called “Peace-smile Land” where we can all live peacefully. After seeing the exhibit, the children were inspired by the art drawn by friends from abroad and added many things to their “Peace-smile Land” picture.

There are many creatures, not only humans but also cats, dogs, etc. in “Peace-smile Land”. They know that it is fun to live with many different creatures!



Report: "Creating Peace with Popoki: Palestine"



On 12 February, the Popoki Peace Project and Kobe YMCA jointly sponsored a meeting called "Creating Peace with Popoki: Palestine." The first half was a mini-workshop in which Tina Ottman (Hebrew) and UDDIN Bashir (Arabic) expressed their desire for peace through reading parts of Popoki's Peace Book, followed by listening to 'Belibi In My Heart,' a peace song performed by Israeli and Palestinian artists David Broza and Wisam Murad. Listening to the sounds of these languages that we are unaccustomed to hearing gave us a chance to meet a new 'Popoki' and to experience Palestine and Israel in a new way. The second half of the program consisted of a showing of the documentary "Rainbow" about the 2004 Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip called Operation Rainbow, followed by small group discussions where people shared their comments and feelings about the film. The following is a report by Po-kai member Atsushi IWANAGA. (Ronni)



"Meeting to Create Peace with Popoki: Palestine"

Atsushi IWANAGA



On February 12, we held a "Meeting to Create Peace with Popoki" with the Kobe YMCA. Many people attended. Thank you for coming.

I presided over the meeting. I thought that the enthusiasm of the participants was particularly impressive. The main part of this meeting was the screening of the documentary "Rainbow" so that we could learn about the present conditions in Palestine. The participants talked about their

impressions in small groups after having watched this film, with Popoki Peace



Project members joining each group as facilitators. Our original plan was to have small group discussions for the first 15 minutes, followed by discussion as a single group. However, talk became lively at every table and I could not make them stop, so we ended with just group discussions.

I actually feel very glad about this because I had not thought that there were very many people who were seriously interested in thinking about the difficult situations in other countries. Since I am interested in education in troubled areas, naturally I am interested in the Israeli-Palestinian problem. But there are very few people in the general public who are interested. However, many people came to our meeting in order to better understand the situation in Palestine.



Is it possible that our thoughts for peace can cross over national borders? Can it lead to changing the world? I want to believe so.

Tina SAN and Bashir SAN, thank you for reading Hebrew and Arabic.



Meeting to Establish a Society for Peace and Art Held

On 20 February, a meeting to begin a Society for Peace and Art was held at Osaka Women's University, organized by Kyoko OKAMOTO. Interested persons involved in the arts and scholars interested in peace working in various fields such as literature, ballet, music, haiku, publishing, and museums gathered.

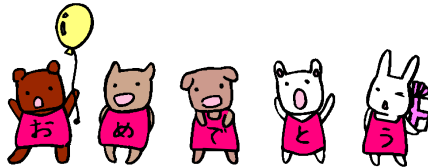


Ms. Rumi MORITA did a musical performance, singing Popoki's Peace Book 1 in its entirety by improvisation (Photo).* We are looking forward to the work of this society in the future. (Satoko)

* Ms. Morita later sent Popoki's Peace Project a recording of her improvisation of the whole book. Thank you very much!

** Since Popoki's activities stress use of all the emotions and senses, the work of the new Society for Peace and Arts will no doubt be very helpful.

Thank you Okumoto-san!



Leadership Training Session held by the Council of Youth Organizations
(Kobe YMCA, February 28, 2009)

Satoko



A Popoki workshop was given as part of a leadership training series sponsored by the Hyogo Prefecture Council of Youth Organizations.

It seems that it was an enjoyable experience to be a participant, since most of those in attendance usually are the ones who are leading such workshops.

You can see the results of their work from the photos.



In a nice coincidence, Mr. Steven Leeper, director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Center, was at the YMCA to give a talk at the same time in a different place, but was able to stop in and have a look. (below)



Sara Roy Lecture at Kyoto University on March 5, 2009



Since visiting Palestine last summer, the Popoki Peace Project has been deeply interested in the issue of Palestinian. Po-kai members have recently attended a lecture at Kyoto University by Sara Roy who was introduced in the Asahi Shimbun as, "the daughter of Holocaust survivors who keeps criticizing Israel" and a report on the current situation in the Gaza by journalist Shiba Rei (22 February). Both took home copies of Popoki's

Peace Book and it is hoped that by now they are fast friends. (Satoko)



Please join us!

- 4.14 Po-Kai at Kobe YMCA 19:00-21:00 Room 304
- All Welcome to come and see a copy of the new Popoki's Peace Book 2!

The schedule for this year is as yet undecided, although we are planning a number of workshops using Popoki's new book (and of course his first one, too).

July Popoki in Hungary?

September Popoki in Palestine/Israel Part 2?

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html
[popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 10

Time to relax with our next easy Poga lesson! Have you been practicing?

1. Sit up straight, and make yourself look thin.
2. Stretch your front paws out to the left, keep your rear end and tail up!
3. Now do the same to the other side!
4. And finally again, this time facing forward!
5. You did it! Very good! Time for the 'success pose.'



Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 10. That was easy, wasn't it! Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 11!

Popoki in Print



- '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: blrhgy@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)
- "Peace Seminar in Kumamoto: What does 'peace' mean to you?" Kumamoto YMCA News 10 Vol.437 October 2008, p.1 (Japanese)
- *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
- "Nuclear Security is Inhuman 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

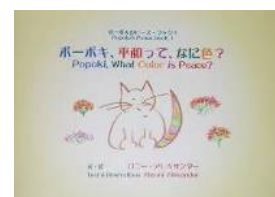
- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>
 - Global Campaign for Peace Education News #57 August 2008 (The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter. Sign-up to receive the newsletter and review back issues online at www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/newsletter.)
 - Editorial "The Anniversary of the End of the War" *Kobe Shimbun* 2008.8.15
 - "Looking toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons." *Chugoku Shimbun* 2008.7.27 (A three-hour interview about nuclear deterrence. Even though I spoke a lot about Popoki, he wasn't included!)
 - *Hyogo Buraku Kaiho*, 2008.6 (Autumn). Buraku Liberation Research Institute of Hyogo. This features some of the Human Rights Posters.
 - *Hyogo Buraku Kaiho*, 2008.6 (Summer). Buraku Liberation Research Institute of Hyogo. This features some of the Human Rights Posters.
- * Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html

**** Special Report**

For those that read Japanese, a report of the workshop held last August at the 'Seminar on Education for International Understanding and Development for Multicultural Understanding' can now be found at the following website. It is likely that Popoki will be including in this year's seminar too, although of course the content will be different.

http://www.jica.go.jp/hyogo/enterprise/kaihatsu/shidousha/pdf/report_h20houkoku.pdf

What Popoki Means to Me



Atsuyo YOSHIMURA

As I read the daily reports in the newspaper of the growing number of deaths in Palestine, I think back on the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The number of casualties grew at a tremendous rate at that time, too. I remember what one of my classmates, Mr. Nakao, said. "I didn't realize it right after the earthquake, but right around that time, 500 people were killed in Chechnya in just a couple of days. If there is a nature disaster, many people may be killed instantly, but why do people intentionally fight and kill each other?"

Every year, NHK radio does a morning broadcast during the summer holidays entitled, "Children's Questions about Science." The children ask good questions and I like the program, so I often listen to it. One day, a child asked the following question. "Are crows really smart birds?"



The expert who was supposed to answer turned the question around, asking the child, "Why do you think they are smart?" The child replied, "Because they do things like putting walnuts in the middle of the road and waiting for cars to run over them and crack the shells..." The expert answered. "I think that the reason that crows

are smart is that they behave in such a way as to always try to preserve the life of future generations.”

I don't remember what the response of the child was, because I was so surprised by that simple and clear answer. If he is correct, it means that human beings must be the most worthless living creatures. Not only do they not preserve their own life, but they make weapons that can destroy the whole earth several times over.

I hope that many people participate in Popoki's activities and that they can help to create hope.



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 including work on *Popoki's Peace Book 2. 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, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* 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. It is also available at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Pittsburgh, PA and Read For You Life Book Shop, Waterloo, ON, Canada.

Some Ways to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* 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!