



It is almost June!

The azaleas have been especially nice this year.

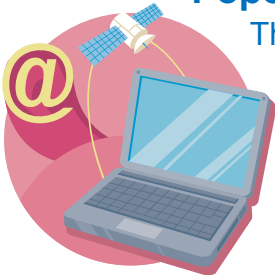
Spring is a great time for cats to peacefully sniff the flowers and chew on new leaves and blades of grass. Maybe humans should try it, too.

Popoki's Hot News

For those of you who haven't yet heard the news, Popoki's new book, *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2*, went on sale in Japan on 20 April. We are looking forward to hearing your comments!



Popoki on the Radio!



Thanks to Popoki's friend Kayoko Uruga, *Popoki, What Color is Friendship?* will be read web radio in two sessions beginning 1 June at the following link. <http://www.kizzna.fm>



Visiting Good Friends...

One of Popoki's avid supporters, hibakusha (A-bomb survivor) Suzuko Numata, enjoys her first reading of *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2*. Numata-san is preparing for a visit from a class of primary school students from Okayama. She plans to tell them of her experiences in Hiroshima at the time of the bomb and introduce them to Popoki.





Rebecca Jennison gives a Mini Workshop

On 23 May at Osaka Sangyo University's Umeda Satellite Campus, a good friend of Popoki's, Rebecca Jennison made a presentation to the 23rd "Intercultural Talk Meeting" of the Kansai English and American Language and Literature Society. As part of her presentation, she gave a mini Popoki workshop, and as a result, Popoki now has many new friends. Thanks, Rebecca!

Photos: Betty and friends, including Flat Stanley



Dr. Betty Reardon, professor emeritus of Columbia University Teacher's College is a friend of Popoki's, too. Here she's been having a look at his new book...and taking a few home with her to NYC!

(The books were delivered to her from Kobe by two suspicious looking cats ↓).





Every person has their own Peace.

Reporter: Kasumi TAMURA
Translator: Kyoko MORI

We are first year MA students in the Division of Entrepreneurial Engineering in the Graduate School of Engineering at Osaka Sangyo University. On 28 April, ten of us

joined in and enjoyed a Popoki Workshop. The aim of this Division is educate engineers who are not only creative but also have an understanding of management. We are not only studying about the specialized knowledge and skills having to do with machine such as automobiles and airplanes, but those pertaining to product and business development.



We met Popoki in a class, one in a series of classes on the promotion of language skills in our Solution Management Course. The purpose of this class was to promote communication skills and cultivate sensitivity. At the beginning of the class, we watched Popoki's DVD. We all grew quiet because it made us felt so nice and warm inside. We imagined the feel and taste of "peace."



After watching the DVD, we separated into groups and had an activity. We exchanged ideas and opinions about the question: "What kind of world we can create with our skills?" We were surprised that each group created a different version of

"peace."

The most active discussion was about whether "it is right to disregard the peace of individuals in order to create peace for all?" In our society, there are many instances of this kind of situation. For example, we have a "gap" in employment, income distribution and other areas of society, and there is discrimination. We should not ignore these problems, but unless we look for them, sometimes it is hard to see them. Therefore we realized that it is important for us to broaden our perspectives and to keep on thinking about "what is happiness, and what is peace?"



Popoki, thank you!

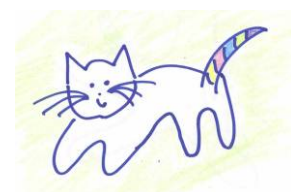
Popoki in Chiang Mai, Thailand

On 4 May, Popoki visited the Chiang Mai YMCA for a peace workshop with Thai and Korean youth. He and his friends had a great time!





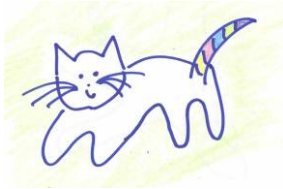
Poga, performance, and difficult questions such as which comes first, social change or hope....





Each group expressed peace and friendship differently





Please join us!



- 6.2 Po-Kai at Kobe YMCA 19:00-21:00 Room 304
- All Welcome! We will talk about plans for the next few months

6.7 Nada Challenge! Festival participation Tokagawa Koen (Park), Nada-ku, Kobe
<http://nadacha.net/frame.html>

6.19 Popoki reading at Kodomo no Sato (Children's Centre), Nishinari-ku Osaka

6.20 Film 'NAKBA 1948' and Lecture 'Popoki, What is the meaning of 'Nakba?' (Ronni Alexander), 13:30-16:30, JICA Hyogo 2F Briefing room. Contact: Tel: 078-261-0341, e-mail: jicahic-event@jica.go.jp

6.28 Film 'Ghada Songs of Palestine' and talk on Palestine by participants in last year's Popoki in Palestine. 13:30-16:30, Higashi Osaka Shimin Kaikan, Contact: 090-3927-8741

6.27 Popoki in Niigata!

8.11 Popoki at International Understanding and Development Seminar, JICA Hyogo

7.26-8.2 July Popoki in Hungary

8.20-21 Kengai-kyo (Hiroshima)?

9.26-27 Peace Education Symposium (Hiroshima) (Kasumi Tamura)

12.23-31 Popoki in Palestine/Israel Part 2?

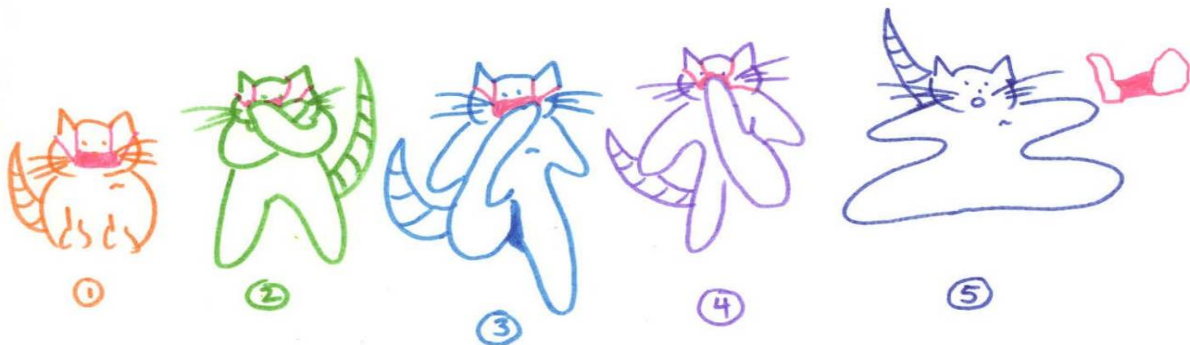
* Popoki's friends* 6/27 Kyoko Shoho "Children's Power of Survival - Stories from 'Kodomo no Sato' in Kamagasaki. 14:00-16:00 Hyogoken Shigaku Kaikan, Info: Hyogo Buraku Liberation Institute: 078-367-8925

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 12

This month's Poga is brought to you from Kobe, city of influenza!

1. As usual, sit up straight, making yourself look thin. Don't forget your mask!
2. Now stand up and instead of using a mask, cross your arms in front of your face, covering your nose and mouth.
3. You can use your legs in place of a mask, too. While standing, raise your right leg and cover your nose and mouth.
4. Now try it with your left leg.
5. Good, you did it! You don't need a mask after all. Time for the 'success pose.'



Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 12. That was easy, wasn't it! Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 13!

* Please keep yourself healthy by eating and sleeping well, washing your hands, and using a mask if necessary.

Popoki in Print



- '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: 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

Misato SASAKI



When I was a child, I often listened to my grandmother's stories about World War II in Japan. She would tell me stories about when my grandfather received his military call, when my grandparents got married or when she was only able to collect a few valuables and rush to the shelter when an air-raid siren was blown. These stories, especially the air-raid story, would sometimes give me nightmares and I would wake up sweating. I would ask her, "Why does war break out?" Maybe she did not know how to explain it to a child, but she would tell me, "When a Houkiboshi¹ shows up in the sky, a war will break out." When I asked her what a Houkiboshi looks like, she would say, "A star that's shape like a broom." After that, every night I would look up at the sky to see if the star would show up before I went to bed. Soon, I stopped looking up in fear that it might actually appear.

Haley's comet passed earth in 1997. At that time, I was a university student. I went to the top of the Sky Building in Osaka expecting to see the comet. It looked like a red fireball. After that night, I learned the comet was Houkiboshi. When I was young, I couldn't look up at the sky for fear of seeing Houkiboshi, but as an adult, I went to see it myself.

Many years have passed and thinking back to when I was a child, I wonder if I really understood the meaning of, "The ability to create peace is within ourselves" since I thought wars broke out regardless of what I did and praying was the only way Houkiboshi would not come.

My grandmother's story allowed me to think about peace for the first time in my life, but it was scary for me. As I grew up, I realized that our world is not always at peace even though there isn't a war. I wonder whether if I had had Popoki in my childhood years, I would have thought about peace not from fear, but through my surroundings. I think Popoki gives us many ideas to create peace beginning with ourselves, so through his many questions, creating peace is not only other people's issues, but also our own.



When I was in a difficult situation, Popoki dropped by my place with flowers. Popoki heals me even though I am adult.

¹ Houkiboshi is another name for a comet in Japanese. Houki means a broom in Japanese. The name comes from its shape. In ancient times, a comet was believed to be the warning of a disaster, war or plague. (Genius Japanese-English Dictionary)

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.

***Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* is not yet available at these bookstores.**

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* 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))



Thank you!

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!

