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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM POPOKI AND THE
POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!**

Popoki's Hot News!



Popoki had a chance to learn about Hansen's disease and also about the "comfort women" in Miyakajima. We want to share what we learned so we have planned a special Po-kai and International Hansen's Disease Day Program!

'Popoki in Miyakajima — Popoki's feelings about the current situation of Hansen's Disease and the "Comfort Women" 2011.1.31 19:00~ Kobe YMCA Rm.306 Hope to see you there!

please contribute a bit of peace!

What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today?

please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: popokipeace@gmail.com

One of Popoki's friends, PEN-san, sent this message:

"Recently I heard a poem that made me laugh, but I can't repeat it here.
Since then, my friend and I have been reciting it and laughing.
It occurred to me that being able to be silly is part of feeling peace."



Popoki and Ronni are gradually
getting back to work.
Thanks for your continued
understanding and support.



Popoki in Miyakojima, Okinawa !

Popoki and his friends Satoko and Ronni went to Miyakojima.

The purpose of their trip was to see the 'Ariran Monument' built through grass roots efforts in Miyakojima. During the war, there were about 30,000 Japanese troops stationed on Miyakojima and 16 'comfort stations' were set up for them. Most of the women forced to engage in hard labor providing sexual services at those 'comfort stations' had been brought to Miyakojima from Korea by the Japanese military. Miyakojima is a flat island, and it was difficult to hide the many comfort stations from the local population. As a result, the 'comfort women' had many chances to encounter local people, including times when they did their washing at the well. The monument, engraved in 12 different languages, was built around a rock where they often rested on their way to the well. Plans are underway to plant a 'peace forest' adjacent to the monument. Overlooking the Peace Forest and monument is a former Japanese military base, now a Self Defense Force base to which a new contingent of planes will soon be deployed. We think it is wonderful that this monument was built. We bowed our heads and prayed for the former 'comfort women' and that war disappears from the earth and all people live in happiness.

*The monument is engraved in languages used by women from 12 regions: Australia, China-Taiwan, Guam, Indonesia-Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherland, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Timor-Leste, Vietnam



"We remember the suffering of the individual women who were subjected to sexual violence by the Japanese military.

Lament the victims of the war-time sexual violence throughout the entire world,

Pray for a peaceful world without any more war."

Source: 日韓共同「日本軍慰安所」宮古島調査報告 『戦場の宮古島と「慰安所」』 なんよう文庫 2009年

The people who showed us around Miyakojima (photo) are members of a group collecting testaments about Hansen's disease. They are both former 'patients' at Nansei-en, a place where those suffering from the disease were forced to live under very harsh conditions. They gave us a wonderful tour, and shared their own stories of suffering and discrimination. We learned that discrimination is still very strong. This was the first time for us to hear directly about Hansen's disease from former patients, and we are going to study more about it.



*Please join us on 31 January for our first study meeting!



We love Miyakojima!

We love the ocean!

We love our new friends!

The popoki in the sand is smiling

at us....



Tensions surround the construction of a new US base in Okinawa are high. We don't want bases on Okinawa. We don't want bases on Guam. We don't want bases or war anywhere!



POPOKI becomes Bottle Cap Art

@KOBE YMCA International Charity Bazaar Part 2

Tsukasa Nishiyama



Our sample Bottle Cap Popoki

This time, I joined the YMCA bazaar as a member of the Popoki Peace Project. The content of our event was “making Popoki” with plastic bottle caps. The purpose of the event was to appeal for support for the ECOCAP project that collects plastic caps and exchanges the profits from recycling these caps for polio vaccines to save children’s lives. The Kobe YMCA also participates in the project.

On the day of the bazaar, our event was a great success with many children who came by turns! Children pasted caps on the Popoki drawing to complete the picture really freely, but they might not have understood the purpose. We couldn’t compete with their imagination and creativity, though we prepared the sample picture of Popoki the day before. However, I thought we also really enjoyed the preparation by ourselves, and especially, one of the members, Aastha-san was in full activity as the Popoki craftsman who strained at the details of the sample picture!

Children played and said, for example, “How high can I stack the caps?” or “This is a Rocket!!” Some of them had to think very hard and it might have been difficult to devise a way to stack the caps or a way to put glue on them. However, the great and colorful picture of Popoki, like a mosaic, was completed. I was really happy to see the children’s work which was glad that it was contrary to our expectations, in a good sense.

I can’t answer the question “In the end, were you able to appeal for support for the ECOCAP project?” However, I expect that children who know how to play with plastic bottle caps surely will get a chance to learn about another way to use caps someday!



The Children’s Bottle Cap Popoki

Popoki's Easy Poga

Lesson 31

The holidays and vacation are almost here! It is time to relax with some poga. We hope it makes you feel strong and good!



1. As always, sit up straight making yourself look thin.
 2. Now lie down and keeping one leg straight, bend your other knee, gently pulling your leg toward your bottom. Try to stretch your tail, too.
 3. Now try the other side....
 4. OK, breathe deeply in...and out... and stretch out on the floor....
 5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 31. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.



Please join us!



Next Po-kai: 1.6 (Thursday) 17:00- Kobe YMCA Room 304 All welcome for Po-kai and party

12.27-28 Popoki at All YMCA English Camp, Tozanso

2011.1.31 Special Pokai! International Hansen's Disease Day Program: 'Popoki in Miyakojima – Popoki's Feelings about the current situation of Hansen's Disease and the "Comfort Women"' Kobe YMCA Rm.306 19:00~ Admission free

2.26-27 Popoki at Central Japan District YMCA Global Education Workshop. (in Japanese). Rokkosan YMCA.

March- Peace map program practice and preparation

April/May Peace map program

Popoki in Print

- **“What is Behind ‘Popoki, What Color is Peace?’ 1st in a series in “Tosabori Life” No.19 2010.10:4 (In Japanese)**
- HORIKOSHI Takeshi. “Kokusai no mado” (article about Palestine) *Kobe YMCA News* No.604 2010.9-10, p.3
- “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
- *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
- “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.)



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



What Popoki Means to Me



- Aastha Ranabhat

Family, their love and support, which can easily be taken for granted when together, are all you can think about while living away from home. It has been eight months since I left Kathmandu and every time I think of my family, I picture my mother feeding homeless cats that seek seasonal refuge at our home. Over the years, I have watched her show such compassion and wondered if I ever could be half the person she is.



I came to Japan with my mother's dream in my eyes; to become everything she was deprived of. To broaden my horizon and be the best I could be while helping others and making friends in the process. Popoki Peace Project has given me that platform; through *Pokais* (Popoki meetings) and Popoki events, I have been able to make a nominal contribution in spreading Popoki's Peace messages and in so doing found family among friends.

Living by myself makes me nostalgic, but the little happiness that I get amongst members of the Project gives me the motivation to hang on. I remember feeling exceptionally special when Alexander sensei called from New Zealand during *Pokai* and wished me 'Happy Birthday!' Everyone in the Project, directly or indirectly, has shown me affection and graciousness; they have helped me in my attempt to become independent, discover myself and understand life. They have enriched my adventure in Japan and shown me such kindness. I have such gratitude that the few years I will spend in Kobe might just become a lifetime memory.

I am pleased to be a part of Popoki Peace Project and pleased to call it FAMILY.



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. *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.

***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))

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



From within Japan, please use our Postal account or Postal bank account:

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Postal Account number: 00920-4-28035

Postal Bank (Yuucho Ginko) account number: Branch No.:099; Branch name: 009 店、special account(当座) 0280350

THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!



Thank you!

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