# Popoki



#### Newsletter No.72 2011.8.25

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## Popoki's Hot News!



Our friends at the Tosabori YMCA Summer Seminar made a banner for Popoki's Friendship Story and our friends in Pittsburgh made two at an event for 'Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace'!

Thank you!!!



#### Pieces of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Shiro-san, sent a piece of peace:
"The day that passes with nothing special happening is a happy day."

.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



#### Popoki Friendship Story Project

This August we have been active in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures. At the end of August, we are planning to take a photo in Sendai of all of the banners gathered so far (about 10, or almost 50 meters)! Keep current at: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari\_e.html



#### Popoki Arrives in Kobe!

On a recent trip to Pittsburgh, Ronni met this Popoki! They were introduced by Ronni's sister, Robin. Popoki and Ronni came home together and he is now living happily in Kobe ready to make new friends.



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#### Tosabori YMCA Summer Seminar 2011

Text: Satoshi Ariyama; Photos: Shiro Nagashige

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, the members of Popoki Peace Project visited "Tosabori Summer Seminar 2011" held at Tosabori YMCA. They participated last year too, but for me it was the first time.

On that day, there were a lot of people in Tosabori YMCA. "Tosabori Summer Seminar" is an annual summer event at which many kinds of seminars are held, for example handicrafts, textiles, and cooking, by voluntary teachers and staff. We held a seminar called, "Let's play! Create! and Think! with the cat, Popoki."



There were 8 participants in our seminar. One of them was a high school student, and another one participated last year, too. We joined them, and separated into 3 groups. And then we did a lot of things in that workshop. First, we introduced ourselves, exercised and relaxed by Poga, and expressed something, for example "cat" and "friendship", by our bodies. In those things, the most difficult thing was "peace". Somebody expressed it with a V sign, and others shook hands. Then, we read Popoki's Peace Books, after which we stood according to our own opinion on a line between "Yes" and "No". For that exercise, the



question was "Is Japan peaceful?" Most of us stood up near the "Yes" side, and someone said "This is because there is no war in Japan." However, after we got to know that one child dies in the world every 3 seconds and discussed "What is not peaceful in our lives?" and "What is needed for peace?" our opinion might be changed a little. Finally, each group drew peaceful gardens or towns. When we finished drawing, there were a lot of things in each picture. One picture had a garden in the town, and

there was a farm to make them self-sufficient. Another had a folded paper crane? in the lake,

and Popoki lying down comfortably in the center. The third had a wide road in the town, and there were a lot of things like foods, and transportation facilities. There was also the public bath for everyone to use.

In that seminar, we enjoyed ourselves and passed 2 hours quickly. I was interested in how our opinion about peace changed from "there is no ..." to "there is..." during our seminar.



# R-#4-K-2-70227h Popoki Peace Project

## Popoki's Earthquake Support Interview (4) Marie Tada

I interviewed Satoshi Ariyama (Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University: Ari) and Maya Tamura (Faculty of Health Sciences, Kobe University: Tam). From 30<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May this year, Kobe University sent volunteers to Tono in Iwate Prefecture which is one of the areas severely hit by the Eastern Japan Earthquake. They worked with the victims. The volunteer activities were held in cooperation with "Tono Magokoro Net (Tono City, Tono City Social Welfare Council, Junior Chamber International Japan and local NGOs)" in Otsuchi Town, Kamaishi City, Ofunato City and Rikuzentakada City in Iwate Prefecture.



Tad: What brought you participate in this volunteer project?

Tam: When the earthquake happened, I had a lot of time because I had just finished taking entrance exams for university. I was very shocked by this great earthquake. While I was just watching the news all the time, I just felt "horrible" but I couldn't take action at the time right after the earthquake happened. Then I had the idea that I want to help the victims and I started thinking what I can do for them.

Tad: What color do you think the earthquake is?

Tam: Dark red. Tad: Why?

Tam: I clearly remember the fire disaster that happened in the middle of the night in Kesennuma City. My mother had gotten tired of watching the earthquake news because a lot of images were repeated many times. But I was watching the news alone in a totally dark room. The fire disaster is never gone from my mind.

Tad: Ariyama san, why did you participate in this volunteer activity?

Ari: I just had the same situation as Tamura san. I was about to get into graduate school. Basically I'm interested in "helping people" so that, after the earthquake happened, I looked up information on Kobe University's volunteer room and got involved. Also, I didn't feel comfortable with the mood of 'voluntary restraint' (*jishuku mood*) where many games and cultural festivals were cancelled and postponed. I don't know what made me feel so but I think one of the reasons is that nothing big had changed in the Kansai area. At the same time, I strongly thought "I want to know (about Tohoku

district)!" The circumstances here in Kansai were almost back to normal in one month.

Tad: What color do you think the earthquake is?

Ari: A blue sky mixed with grey. The sky is very memorable in the images of quake-hit areas because there were no buildings left to block the sky. There must have been dust drifting in the air to make it look grey.

Tad: I heard all of you stayed at the university's camp in Tono City and took a bus to the quake-hit area every day. What did you feel when you got off the bus in Rikuzentakada City for the first time?

Tam: I was speechless because Tono where we had our camp was not so much devastated. I thought that Rikuzentakada would be a little bit more devastated than Tono, but I was so wrong. Everything was gone.

Tad: What color was there?

Tam: Blue of the sea and sky blue from the sky. The sea is very memorable.

Tad: What did you think when you were about to do volunteering there?

Tam: Maybe even when I saw the devastated area with my own eyes, I still couldn't understand how the victims felt about it. I had thought I could understand the feeling more if I came to the devastated area. In fact, I didn't know where I stand at the time either. That made me so confused.

Tad: What about Ariyama san?

Ari: The image became clearer. The image which I saw on television was the same as I saw in Rikuzentakada City with my own eyes. When I looked around me there, I saw tooth brushes and shoes under a pile of rubble. I could feel people used to live there. Also, what I felt when I went around by car was the scene which I saw from the



window was totally different from what the car navigation system displayed. There should have been a school here and Koban there.... but there was nothing.

Tad: What color was there or how did it smell?

Ari: I smelled the sea. I don't know what it was but I smelled something rotten. The color? I remember that many "Koinobori (carp streamers)" were hanging from the bridge. They were very colorful. They were sent by people in Shizuoka Prefecture.

We talked about one or two memorable activities which Ariyama san and Tamura san did in Otsuchi Town, Kamaishi City, Ofunato City and Rikuzentakada City.

Tad: Could you tell me about the activities which you remember the most?

Tam: "Frozen Sanma (Frozen Saury)."

Tad: What is it?!

Tam: As volunteers we collected frozen sauries. The tsunami hit factories which stored thousands of frozen sauries and they scattered over a large area. In total, 20 million tons of sauries, frozen cod and frozen salmon roe were spread around.

Tad: So frozen sauries were all around the ground?

Tam: Not all around, frozen sauries were under the rubble.

Tad: How did this activity start?

Tam: "Tono Magokoro Net" gathered people at first. When I came to the area, there were 300 people in this activity. People who live there asked "Tono magokoro Net" to remove frozen sauries because they stank so much. Then this activity was started.

Tad: This activity started because "Tono Magokoro Net" listened to people's voices?

Tam: Yes, this is different from the situation of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. There was no place for gathering information from the victims when the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake hit the Kansai area. "Tono Magokoro Net" established such a place to get information, and then they could allocate many tasks to volunteers from that single place. For the victims, it was easy to ask something of the volunteers. There was a coordinator, who was very important to connect the volunteers to the victims.

Tad: Let's get back to frozen sauries' episode. What was the smell there?

Tam: They smelled rotten. I wore a raincoat, boots, goggles, helmet and mask but it stank. It had been 2 months since the earthquake. Later, I came there again on the second bus sent from Kobe University and the smell was gone.

Tad: How did people who live there react to your work?

Tam: I don't know because we didn't meet them during picking frozen sauries.

Tad: Ariyama san, could you tell me yours?

Ari: Foot bath.

Tad: Would you elaborate a little bit?

Ari: We heated water in big bowl which was usually used at soup kitchens. The victims put their feet in the bowl and we gave them arm and hand massages. It's not foot massage. What we aimed at was having communication with the victims during the massage.

Tad: How did the victims come to the foot bath?



Ari: We, the volunteers, came to victims' shelter and invited them by saying, "We are having foot bath outside now, if you want..." We enjoyed conversation together. However, it was important that we pay attention to the victims carefully because many of them were very depressed.

Tad: What kind of people went to the foot bath?

Ari: Young people didn't come such as junior high school or high school students. Children

such as kindergarten age and 40 or 50 year old people came.

Tad: How did they like it?

Ari: I think the victims enjoyed the foot bath. But on the first day when we began the foot bath there, I wasn't really sure how I should speak to the victims. I thought it was too difficult to communicate with them. I opened conversation saying "what did you do today?" I think it was easier way to talk like that when people who were very shy came to the foot bath. While I listened to what exactly happened to the victims and how they lived in shelter, I questioned myself, asking "What I can do for them?"

Tad: Do you have any other activities you remember in particular?

Ari: Yes, clearing mud and rubble. We did in Ofunato City.

Tad: What kind of places did you do that?



Ari: In child-care centers, schools and houses. People had already moved to another place so I didn't see anybody there. Maybe there were some people with us who used live there but many of us came from outside of the devastated areas.

Tad: It's quite a contrast to the foot bath, isn't it?

Ari: Yes it is. That's why I think this work became just simple labor. Especially, entering houses with our shoes on made me feel like it

was just simple hard work. There wasn't a trace of the house where people used to live, and they were all covered with mud.

Tad: Finally, what did you learn through these volunteer activities?

Ari: Many of the victims said "Thank you" to us many times. However, I heard that after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, some people started thinking, "How many times do I have to say thank you?" So many people came to the Tohoku district to help the victims, the same as after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in Kansai. The victims tried to be nice to people who came to help them. As volunteers, I thought we have to think carefully how much we should do and what we should do.

Tam: I remember the event space called "Magokoto Hiroba" in Otsuchi very much.

Tad: What was that?

Tam: The inside of the shelter was always dark and felt closed in. One man made a space to bring smiles to the faces of the victims. His aim was to do something special in this space every day. Of course there were soup kitchens and sales of relief supplies. Many people came to visit there and enjoyed the events but some people just ate and

got supplies.

Tad: Before you came back to Kobe, did you feel something with your body?

Tam: We slept in a prefab house and I became sensitive to the shaking because when somebody moved and walked in the house, the prefab shook a lot. Even if I was in the house I kept putting on my helmet. Maybe there is another reason - some people said it looked good on me. (Laugh) I enjoyed volunteering and connecting with people. I would like to go there again if I have a chance. I thought the color of this earthquake was dark before but now it changed to a bright color. But smell of the earthquake is dust, sand and asbestos. I liked meals in the soup kitchen, especially hot pots. I like that so much. But my strongest impression is the heavy feeling I had in the shelter.

Tad: What about you, Ariyama san?

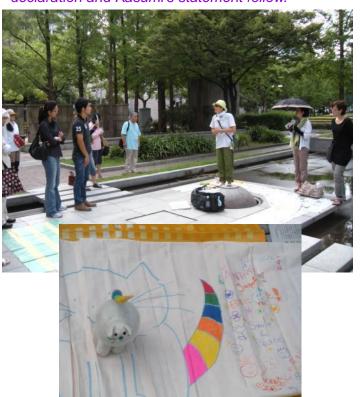
Ari: I remember the sound of shoveling. The color is deep blue, which meant the the day was almost over. I like meals in the soup kitchen too. I felt a difference between the victims and people coming from other regions. But I enjoyed looking at the cherry blossoms. They are the last cherry blossoms to bloom in all of Japan.

Ariyama san and Tanaka san told me a lot about their experiences. Thank you very much for taking the time to see me.

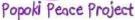


#### August 6 Joint Session with Popoki Peace Project (Kobe) and Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace (Pittsburgh)

On August 6, a group of Popoki's friends gathered in a park in Kobe to think about the meaning of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the context of today's nuclear crisis. We began with each person reflecting on the meaning of Hiroshima in his/her own way at 8:15, the time the bomb was dropped. Ronni prepared a peace declaration as part of the 'Everybody's Peace Declaration' Project. We connected with a group of people in Pittsburgh who were also gathering to think about the meaning of 'things nuclear' and we spent an hour talking on skype! It was very exciting for both sides, although the cicadas made it hard to hear. Okome, Kasumi and others made statements and almost everyone said hello. We learned about the exciting events happening in Pittsburgh and decided to explore more ways to cooperate using skype. We had Popoki's Friendship Story banners in both locations, Nagashige-san's photos, Ronni's peace declaration and Kasumi's statement follow.









Upper Left: First, a greeting...

Right: Die-in, meditation, prayer, conversation.... The expressions are different

but our hearts are one.

Left: Popoki's Friendship Story and a new

Popoki

#### My Peace Declaration

What is a 'state'?

They say the first responsibility is to protect the 'citizens'.

(Here I am not a citizen, but...).

They say an army is necessary in order to protect 'citizens'.

Not a Self Defense Force, but a 'Self Defense Military Force'...an army.

I don't think so. Having an army wouldn't mean we could live safely.

Earthquakes. Floods. Typhoons.

An army wouldn't help to prevent those.

Unemployment. Hunger. Poverty.

An army wouldn't help to prevent those.

Pollution, Contamination, Nuclear accidents.

An army wouldn't help to prevent those.

Is there no 'state' that protects life?

A country where all living things are safe.

A country with no unemployment or hunger or poverty.

A country without nuclear power.

A country that is nice to everyone.

My peace declaration.

Seeking true 'security',

A country where everyone can feel safe,

A country where everyone can feel OK,

A country without nuclear power or weapons.

Not an authoritarian state, but everyone's country.

Let's work together to make it happen.

Ronni Alexander

Kobe, Japan

2011.8.6

















Statement by Kasumi Nishida

For the first 9 days from March 11<sup>th</sup> I wasn't sane. Watching the reactor buildings exploding one by one on TV I was frightened, and torn apart to see those workers going into the broken reactor buildings. Besides, there was a sense of helplessness in the face of the devastating natural disaster. That mentality did not last forever and in my case, I somewhat came back to my "normal" self after 9 days like a fog fades away. First thing I did was to write down how I had been in those 9 days and I swore to myself never to forget that intense emotion. I was scared of this coming back to "normal" happening to me, as it felt like already a beginning of oblivion. Now, 5 months after the severe accidents, am I still conscious of the reality I am living? Are continuously emerging problems related to this issue getting adequate attention? 5 months since the accident, I function almost ordinarily from going to university to meeting friends, but radiation that's been dispersed doesn't go away.

To be ready for August 6<sup>th</sup> commemoration and this speech, yesterday I was reading Kenzaburo Ōe's *Japan*, *The Ambiguous*, *and* Myself and Masuji Ibuse's *Black Rain*. I needed to distance myself from the overflowing information on nuclear issues being available since the accident, to collect my thoughts. *Black Rain* is a novel which tells us about the life of people who lived under the reality of atomic bomb dropped Hiroshima. *Japan, The Ambiguous and Myself* is a set of speeches Ōe provided at various lectures, and one chapter talks about Ibuse. In my speech, I am hoping to talk about the connection between the atomic bomb and nuclear energy which I realized through *Black Rain*, and what it means to "remember".

Black Rain ends with the following sentences.

If a rainbow appears over those hills now, a miracle will happen," he prophesied to himself. "Let a rainbow appear... and Yasuko will be http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index\_e.html popokipeace (at) qmail (dot) com

cured." So he told himself, with his eyes on the nearby hills, though he knew all the while it could never come true.

Yasuko, a niece of Shigematsu who is praying to the sky (he is also an atomic bomb survivor), began showing symptoms of radiation sickness around 5 years after the bombing. Shigematsu is well aware of the fact that ultimately no one knows what will happen to Yasuko in the future. I found this prayer does not sound foreign to me. I felt like I understand Shigematsu's sentiment, and perhaps many people who are experiencing the nuclear catastrophes since March 11<sup>th</sup> also understand the essence of this prayer. Because we are currently living in a reality with much uncertainty, ultimately we don't know how our future will turn out to be 10 years 20 years from now. When I found myself associating the prayer in *Black Rain* with my current reality, I saw clear a connection between the atomic bomb and nuclear energy.

Another thing I would like to mention is remembrance. Referring to a novelist Milan Kundera, Ōe explains how authority always encourages people to forget the catastrophes in order to let them repeat the same mistakes. Ōe claims that people, must "remember" the historical catastrophes to fight against such power.

Today, I am thinking about what it means to remember and pass on memories. As a person educated in Japan, I received numbers of opportunities to learn about the dreadfulness of the atomic bombs dropped to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And it is not that each of the stories I heard or the pictures I saw were powerless. Indeed they were, very powerful. I have always been offered something from those who decided to share their stories. This is why I need to question what we have accepted from those people, what we accepted from generation to generation, if we haven't questioned the existence of nuclear power plants? What was the meaning of all those classes and field trips, if we could accept the idea of "peaceful use of nuclear energy" without interrogation? What kinds of memories have been passed on and what kinds of memories haven't been (e.g. the voices of exposed workers, A-bomb/H-bomb test victims and those inhabitants near power plants/Uranium mine)? How have those memories been framed? Those questions are necessary reflection, and at the same time imperative for remembering the currently ongoing accident because our feelings and experiences are not delusions.



I am so grateful you are there listening to me, allowing me to share my questions with you. Thank you.

> It is so hot in the park in summer! After the skype conversation ended, we continued our hot discussion while having cool drinks.

#### Remembering Suzuko Numata-san (1923.7.30-2011.7.12)

Ronni Alexander

Numata-san, thank you for sharing your 'life' with me!

The 10 Feet Campaign began soon after I first came to Japan. The purpose was to purchase copies of footage taken by the Allied Forces in the autumn of 1945 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to make documentaries for peace. The film included sections showing the injuries to individual survivors. One of them was 21 year-old Suzuko Numata, a woman who had lost her leg in the bombing of Hiroshima.

Numata-san began giving testimonies of her A-bomb experiences as a result of the 10 Feet Campaign, and the first time she spoke with foreigners I was her translator. We were both anxious because it was also the first time for me to serve as a translator for someone telling about their experiences after the bomb. Nervousness made my still awkward Japanese even clumsier and I must have been a very bad translator indeed! But Numata-san's smile and earnest appeals made up for my many mistakes.

That was more than thirty years ago, the first of many encounters. Numata-san loved cats and was close friends with Popoki. So many children have learned from her about the preciousness of life, and she has introduced many of them to Popoki, too! For Numata-san, 'life' is more than nationality or race or religion. It is not limited to humans, but includes all the living creatures in the world. Numata-san taught me about life, too, and her 'Hiroshima' has been an important part of my work for peace....but she was always there to help me. Now she is gone and it is my turn to help her keep her message alive. Popoki will help me, but I hope many others do, too.

Numata-san once told me that the color of peace was yellow, the color of hope. May tomorrow, and the next day, and all the days that follow be yellow.





## Popoki's Easy Poga

#### Lesson 39

Does hot weather make your feet swell? This month's poga might help. We hope it makes you feel better!



- 1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
- 2. Next, lie on your back and raise your legs and tail.
- 3. Now bring your left leg toward your head and extend your right leg. Don't forget to extend your tail, too.
- 4. Now switch legs....
- 5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!

  Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 39. Do you feel refreshed?

  Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.



Next Po-kai: 2011.9.27 Kobe YMCA 306 19:00-

- 8.26-28 Popoki in Sendai and Minami Sanriku-cho!
- 8-13 September Popoki in Guam!?!
- 9.27 'Volunteering and International Cooperation' Symposium at Kobe University
- 10.14-15 Popoki at Asia Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA), Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
- 10.22 Popoki Friendship Story exhibit at Peace as a Global Language, Konan University?
- 10.23 Popoki Friendship Story exhibit at Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Bazaar?
- 10.29 Popoki Friendship Story at Kobe University Homecoming Day (Kobe)
- 10.30 Popoki Friendship Story at Human Rights Institute Conference, Kinosaki
- 11.12 Peace & Health Map! Hyogo University of Health Sciences, Kobe Port Island with Semester at Sea students from US
- 11.26 Popoki Mini Film Festival Kobe YMCA

### Popoki in Print

- R. Alexander. (2010) "The Popoki Peace Project: Creating New Spaces for Peace in Demenchonok, E., ed. *Philosophy after Hiroshima*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp.399-418
- ▶ 省窓:Column in Kobe YMCA News, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (In Japanese)
- "What is Behind 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' 1<sup>st</sup> 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, <a href="http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602\_en">http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602\_en</a> 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 (<a href="http://www.infactispax.org/journal/">http://www.infactispax.org/journal/</a>)
- 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



Satoko

People say that, "The end of one story is always the beginning of a new one." After getting acquainted with Popoki, I have helped with workshops in a lot of places. The key word was 'Peace'. I met many new people, and every time gained new awareness. As we send our message, we are also taught, and I have learned and grown.

"What color is peace? What is the taste of peace?" People answer questions about the senses according to their own experience. I think that behind each answer, even simple ones, is a story, but it is difficult for us to learn all the details in the limited time of the workshop. Some parts of the stories are used in later workshops, but I think it is a shame that we have to let some of the stories disappear.

The 'Popoki Friendship Story' project that started after March 11 has no limits on time, and no specific questions, either. It is only many colors of felt-tipped markers and a long, thin cloth with a picture of Popoki on one end. People draw or write what they are feeling, thinking, experiencing. These stories are not of the past, but of now. How can there be so many stories all at the same time? If I had not gotten acquainted with Popoki, it is likely I would not have thought about this.

So...what will happen next?



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#### 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

<u>www.los\_angeles@kinokuniya.com</u> 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

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From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

From the Popoki Peace Project (popokipeace (at) gmail(dot)com

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