It’s February! After a very cold winter, spring is beginning to show its sunny and warm face! Popoki has a warm coat, but he is happy to see signs of spring.

COMING SOON!

17 March 13:00~16:00 @ Nada Kumin Hall!
“Drawings, picture books, disaster and medicine pot luck party” Event!
2 guests from Otsuchi-cho, others from Nara, Osaka, Tokyo and of course Kobe. We’ll draw and talk and have fun! Please join us! See page 5 for more details.

Two new articles about Popoki’s work
To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2017.1419669


Piece of Peace

One of Popoki’s friends, Shiro-nyan, sent the following piece of peace:

“Is your happy dream due to peace? How about sad, scary dreams? But being able to dream can be peaceful.”

What sort of ‘peace’ did you encounter today? Please contribute a bit of peace! Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki’s e-mail:
Thoughts on 17 January 2018

Ronyan

There are days when cats are busy
   Days it’s cold and they want to curl up
   Days when they search for a good napping spot
   Days when they have to be nice to humans
   Days when they smell flowers
      And so on
      So busy
   No time to just stand still.

   Just one daffodil
   flower
   It seems so cold, so lonely
   I wonder if daffodils are busy, too
   I’ve been running without stopping
   but finding a daffodil blooming in the harsh cold
      made me think
      about being too busy
      about being stressed out
      about not standing still

   No time to remember
   an earthquake that happened 23 years ago
   Maybe this is the moment
      to stop
      take a deep breath
      and reconfirm
   the message that that huge earthquake
      is trying to convey

   What’s important?
   Who’s important?
   Family, friends, ourselves
   Animals, plants, homes, towns
   People we have not yet met
   What can we do to
   Keep them safe?

   Because we are busy
   Because we don’t want to remember
   Because we’re alive
   Let’s stand still today
   And remember
   For tomorrow

Every year I write a poem in the desire to keep the memory of that day alive. Usually it is in the January “Popoki News”, but this year I am a bit late.
*Popoki’s Interview*

Satonyan & Ronyan

Otsuchi Report - An interview that isn’t an interview?
Setting the stage for next month’s interview?

We went to Otsuchi this year, too. Seven nyans, a stuffed Popoki and a new friend – origami Popoki - did exhibit and other activities from 9 – 12 February.

This year it is so cold!
We saw an icicle that was one meter long!
Usually it does not snow, but we saw a lot of snow, too.
The window of a car in the parking lot froze, even though it was daytime.
But even though it was cold outside, these warm people welcomed us this year, too.

A detailed report will be in next month’s Popoki News.
Thank you very much to everyone in Otsuchi!
Lesson 117
This month's theme is balance!

1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand up straight. Take a PET bottle and balance it on your head. Try using a full bottle, or an empty one. What other kinds of variations can you enjoy?
3. Next, try balancing the bottle on your forehead. You'll have to change your posture.
4. Finally, bend over forwards and try balancing it on your bottom. Be careful to keep your tail out of the way.
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: 2018.3.29 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai

2018.4.6 UNESCO Chair Kick-off Symposium@Kobe University! Takigawa Kinenkan, 2nd floor. English & Japanese. 13:00~. If you are interested in disaster, gender, or a summer program in Indonesia, please come and find out more!
4.21 15:00 – 17:00, registration at 14:30. Report meeting for Popoki Friendship Story Project activities in February, 2018. Former participants, interested nyans, people who might become interested, please join us at Kobe Student Youth Center. Room: Kaigishitsu A.

From Popoki's friends:

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com ronniandpopoki@gmail.com
皆様を多様な表現方法を用いた持ち寄り（ぽっとらっく）パーティへご招待いたします。このパーティは違った専門領域の人々をつなぐ新しい災害コミュニケーション法の開発にもつながります。
世界各地で大きな災害の発生が伝えられています。どうすれば大也も子どもたちも安心できる社会を創れるのでしょうか？物理的な「安全」とちがって、抽象的な「安心」は必ずしも言葉で表現できません。今回は、アート（絵画）を通じて、「安心」を体で表現したいと思います。パステルを使って皆の気持ちを描き、笑ったり、しゃべったり、楽しんだりしながらひとつつの作品を作ります。
東日本大震災で大きな被害を受けた岩手県大槌町からのゲスト、災害ボランティア活動の経験を持つ方々、子どもの権利を考えている小学生、をお招きして、零れを見たり、長い時間一緒に絵を描いたり、布に描かれた絵を鑑賞したり、お話したりしました。異なった年代、専門、地域の人々が集い、皆で「安心」を考えたと思います。

Guests: Mamoru Michimata, Ms. Yoko Itoh, Kaori Hayashi, Hiroshi Ooe, Satoshi Airyama. Coordinator: Satoshi Takada
“Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival,” Kobe YMCA News No.652, July/August 2017, p.3

ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange http://www.interpeople.or.jp

“Peace Picture Book Published – linked to disaster support in East Japan” Kobe Shim bun(2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana

“Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation” Kobe Shim bun (2013.8.23 p.8)

“Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” Kobe Shim bun (2013.8.7 p.22)

‘Draw inner thoughts about disaster’ Yomiuri Shim bun 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)

“‘Safe’ and ‘Secure’ Society is from the bottom-up”, Mainichi Shim bun Interview with Ronni Alexander, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)


“Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki” Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News, No.66, 2012.5.12

“Hope on 60 meters of cloth” Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) Asahi Shim bun 2012.1.21


“If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine” THE YMCA No.607 June 2010, p.1 (YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper)


FM COCOLO 76.5 ‘Heart Lines’ 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine


‘Not for But With…’ No.79, 2010.10 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 Shim bun 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 Shim bun, 2009.4.21

‘Popoki, What Color is Peace?’ Kobe YMCA News, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2


‘Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,’ RST/ALN, 2009.2.22

Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/

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


Kobe Shim bun “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


Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/


http://popoki.cruisejapan.com ronniandpopoki@gmail.com
What Popoki means to Me

Taiki-nyan
English translation: Mari-Nyan

When I was 9 years old, I met Popoki for the first time at Nada Challenge mini stage. I joined Nada Challenge and other workshops every year, and 5 years and a half passed! Time flies!
Since I became a junior high school student, I couldn’t make time to join Popoki Peace Project.
I went to Po-nenkai last December after such a long absence.
There was Aripan-nyan! He is the person whom I have longed to see. I could meet him for the first time in 3 years. I was surprised because I am a little bit taller than him!
I talked with him about his job and study.
I got a lot of advice from him on what I should do in the future.
Also, I really enjoyed Bashirnyan’s curry!

At the end of 2017, Tai-papa (my father) found Mayu-nyan on facebook, I could connect with her.
I heard that she is working hard in Burundi, a place I don’t know much about.

I miss the days we spent time together. I want to see the other Popoki friends.
Dear Popoki friends, please come back to Popoki and join together again if you have time! I hope to see you soon.

I will do my best to make my dreams come true with Popoki.
Thank you, Popoki friends!
P.S.
I am finally taller than Ro-nyan and Sato-nyan! haha
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 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.

Some ways to purchase 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 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

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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