

Popoki



Newsletter No.119 2015.7.25

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http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



Summer is here! Popoki likes to lounge under a parasol. How about you?

Popoki's Hot News!

COMING SOON!



6 August: Hiroshima Day shadows, die-in and skype! Ikutagawa park and Kobe YMCA See page 9

7 August: Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival - Summer. Guam & talk! Kobe YWCA See page 10

9 August: Film 'X Years Later' and Talk: Director Ito & Ronyan! Kobe University See page 11

Popoki's Peace Book 3 and Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake

You can get copies of these and Popoki's other books at your local bookstore (in Japan), from the publisher Epic (<https://bookway.jp/epic/>), at the Kobe YMCA or from the Popoki Peace Project! We look forward to your orders and comments.



Pieces of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Mochi-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "Having a range of choices might be the peace to follow up possibilities and dreams."

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.



NEW! New videos of Nada Challenge 2015!!! Watch on Popoki's URL or YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/7LcYzZzNQYg> and <https://youtu.be/WYdWwmwogkE>

Kodomo no sato

Morinyan, Aripannyan

We went to meet children in Kodomo no sato with 20 international students on 11 July, the same as every year. Kodomo no sato is a place in Kamagasaki (Nishinari Ward, Osaka City) where children who each have their own difficult circumstances gather. In Kodomo no Sato, they play, study, and some live there.

We have been going to Kodomo no sato for several years. This year, we joined in an anti-drug parade with the children for the first time. We walked around Kamagasaki with hand-made placards. I was not familiar with the drug problem and did not understand how important it is to eradicate drugs. However, an old man walking with me loudly appealed “No, drugs!” and “Get rid of drugs in Kamagasaki!” When I saw and heard such words, I found that the problem of drugs in Kamagasaki was everyday issue for people who live there. And I also felt it became familiar for me and should be dealt with. Recently, there is more variety in the kinds of drugs, and some kinds are readily available. It was also the first time for most of the students to join in a demonstration. Some international students said, “Interesting!” and were excited at such an unusual experience. Many Japanese people believe that only people who have strong beliefs should join in demonstrations, but it is also good for me to join in and enjoy a demonstration with others to just think about the issue.

After the parade, we got a cold juice as a reward, and went back to Kodomo no sato to do a short workshop program. The theme was *genki*. At the beginning, we made a big circle, and made self-introductions. After that, we had calm-down poga time, but the children were still excited. One international student helped by leading us in an impromptu game. Thanks to his support, the children settled down a little. We started the workshop with questions about *genki*, asking when do you lose *genki*, and what makes you *genki*? We separated into 5 groups, and talked together about it. Someone said *genki* disappeared when he got hungry. Another one said in a little voice that her family lives separately, so it erases her *genki*. To become *genki*, her answer was to live together with her family. Another boy said that when he lost his *genki*, his friends just talked with him, and it made him *genki*. Without even talking or hearing about the problem which made you lose your *genki*, just a sign that someone take cares about you would make you *genki*. Finally, we expressed what makes us *genki* by using our bodies. Actually it was so hard to express not using words, but international students tried to relate to the children and help them have ideas.

This time, we could feel “*genki*” from many adults and children in Kamagasaki. I believe their *genki* will surpass the effects of drugs and they will get rid of drugs in the near future. Thank you for your *genki*. We will come to see you next year again.



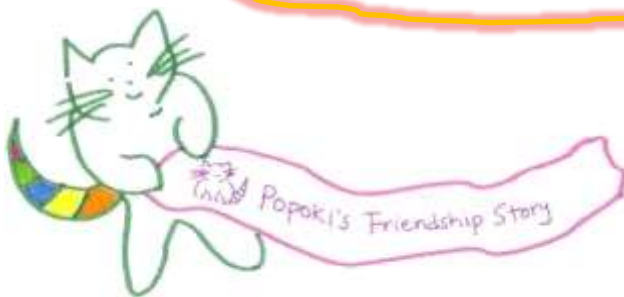
Waiting to start!



Hand-made placard by Shironyan.



How wonderful to use one's own language!



Popoki's Interview

April 2015 Nepal Earthquake (Gorkha earthquake)

- Aasthanyan

On Saturday April 25, 2015, at approximately 11:56 am a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal making it the worst natural disaster in the history of the country. For some of you who like statistics, below are some 'facts' about the earthquake



View across from Bhotenamlang, Sindhupalchok, the district that suffered most human damage

April 2015 Nepal Earthquake Facts

Epicenter of the quake: east of Lamjung district

Hypocenter: depth of approx. 15 km

Estimated death toll: between 6,204 – 9,000 people

18 died at Mt. Everest when the quake sparked an avalanche

Estimated injured: approx. 14,000 people

Estimated number of people affected by the disaster: 8 million (United Nations estimate)

Estimated number of displaced people: 2.8 million (World Body estimate)

Estimated number of destroyed houses: 130,033 (United Nations estimate)

Reasons behind the overwhelming effect of the earthquake: geography, rapid and unplanned urbanization, and unsound architecture.



Dharahara (security fort), Kathmandu



No evacuation centers: People seeking refuge in streets

For some of you who like stories, here is a story I would like to share.

On Saturday April 25, 2015, I could not wait to finish my part-time work because I was supposed to fly to Nepal later that evening. I had arranged to go home to renew my passport. But, before my work for the day was over, I received two Line messages from Marie-chan and Sato-san asking me if my family in Nepal were okay. They informed me about the earthquake in Nepal and gave me the facts they had available (epicenter, hypocenter, etc...). My first thought, as embarrassed as I am to confess, was that I was relieved that the earthquake had not struck someplace other than home. My thought quickly changed when I asked my boss to search about the earthquake on the Internet. At that point I started calling my family (dad, mom, brother, aunts, and cousins) in turns, hoping to get a hold of someone. I rushed home and when I got to my doorstep I received a call from my father. I answered the call but was only able to hear a tearful hello from my father, which in this case was not helpful at all. I could not ask him if he and everyone else were okay. I recalled a voice message my mother had left me the previous day when I was at school, which I had accidentally deleted while trying to save it. In the message she said, "My little one, my little one, my little one, I miss you so much! I can't wait till you get home tomorrow." I hoped that that was not the last time I heard my mother's voice. So, I left for the airport with a heavy heart and strong determination to go to Nepal no matter what, only to find out that the airlines would not let me leave.



Temple, Kathmandu



Monastary, Dolkha district

Back in Nepal, my father was enjoying a leisurely morning in our yard with our dog reading the newspaper (his holiday ritual) when the earthquake struck. My mother was out with her sisters visiting family friends and my brother had just stepped out of his car to sit down for lunch with some friends. None of them had any clue about how the others were during and right after the disaster. They kept trying to get a hold of each other, but their efforts were futile. They finally saw each other later that evening after my brother and mother walked home. They survived it, but our home did not. My father told me they (also implying the city

and the country) were lucky for two reasons:

- I. The earthquake struck on a Saturday when most people were outdoors and not in schools and offices
- II. The earthquake did not happen during the night when most people would have been sleeping



People seeking refuge in Tudikhel (military grounds)



Durbar school: first school in Nepal

“I’m lucky!” I believe it with all of my heart, but that does not mean that it makes seeing and feeling the damage easier or wondering what this may result in eventually. I will never forget the sight of blue and orange tarpaulin tents all over Kathmandu valley from the aircraft window. I cannot get the images of devastated infrastructure especially my house along with temples, heritage sites, palace squares, schools, museums, etc. out of my mind. The thought that I might not be able to show and/or share them with my children someday is heartbreaking. I cannot help but worry about how this disaster will affect the country. What will happen to its tourism industry and hence the economy? Will Nepal be stigmatized as a disaster prone and/or unsafe country? Will its pristine mountains be considered death traps? The disaster-affected districts are some of the poorest districts in the country where most families traffic at least one of the women in their household for survival. Will this mean that more daughters from Nepal will be heading to brothels in India to put a roof over their family? Is this how we will recover from this event? Or will we drown in further debt to our neighbors, the World Bank and the IMF?



Poorest households: most devastation



Women bear the bigger burden of rebuilding community

'Recovery cannot happen overnight'; this is one of the many lessons I learnt from visiting and staying in touch with people in Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture, Japan. Recovery in the context of Nepal may be an even slower process. If there were something I could wish for my country, I would wish that someone would teach us how to live with earthquakes, since the events of April 25, 2015 have made earthquakes part of our everyday vocabulary.

VISIT NEPAL 2015, 2016, 2017...!!

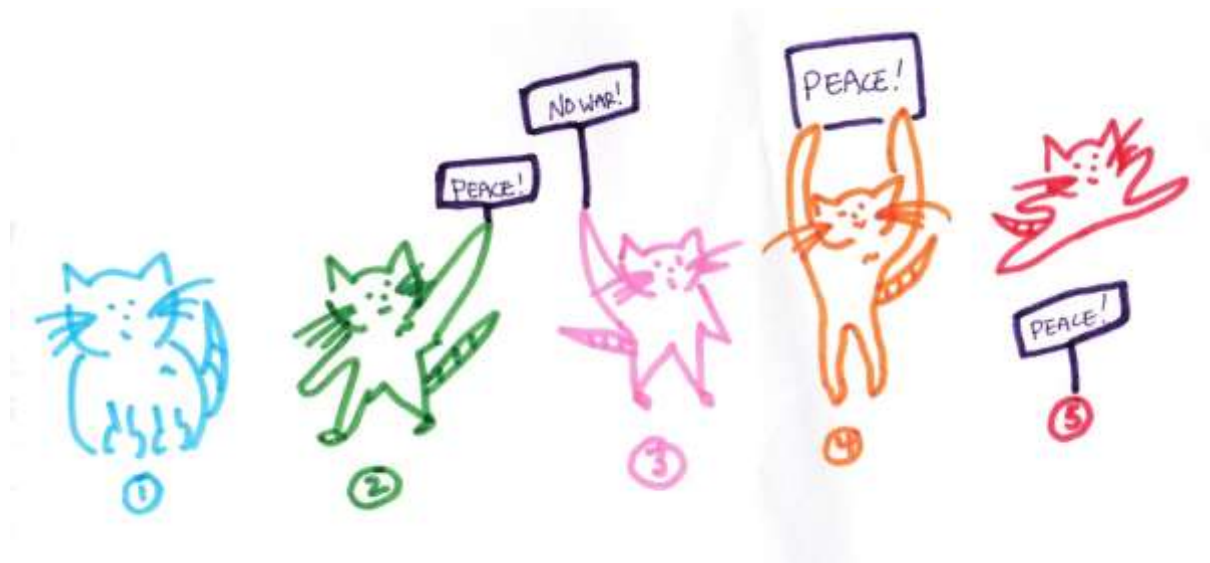
Nepal Tourism Board's work for and with Nepal initiative



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 86

This month's Poga is about peace!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
 2. Next, hold your placard in your left hand and raise it high!
 3. Now change it to your right hand, and raise it higher!
 4. Still can't see it! Get up on your tiptoes, and raise it with both arms!
 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: 9/24 19:00 ~ Kobe YMCA (Shin Kobe OPA, 2F) Rm.201**
- 7.28 Seattle Exchange Popoki Peace Workshop, Kobe Gakuentoshi YMCA
- 7.30 Popoki at Asian region Y's Men's club Youth Convocation, Kyoto
- 8.6 8:00 Hiroshima Day Remembrance shadow and 8:15 die in, 8:40 Skype! Ikutagawa Park and Kobe YMCA (8:40). **See p.9**
- 8.7 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival-Summer! 'Is Guam a Peaceful Island?' and talk. Kobe YWCA. **See p.10**
- 8.9 Film 'X Year Later' and talk. Kobe University. **See p.11**
- 8.10 Popoki at the Seminar on Education for International Understanding, JICA Kansai, 15:00~16:30
- 8.12-16 Popoki wandering in Fukushima and Iwate Prefectures
- 10.17 Peace and Health Workshop, HUHS

From Popoki's friends....

New photo collection! Akagi, Shunji. *Fukushima Traces 2011-2013*. Osiris, 2015. To order, contact Keiko MAEDA, m.dodo@h2.dion.ne.jp

平和について一緒に語りませんか？ Please join us to talk about peace!

広島・長崎の原爆と平和 Hiroshima/Nagasaki and Peace

When: 8.6 08:00~10:00

Where: 新神戸駅南の生田川公園 (熊内町4丁目あたり)。東屋の山側。

In Ikutagawa Park (south of Shin Kobe Station). We'll be near the river on the station side of the pagoda

神戸市バス 2系統 布引・地下鉄 新神戸

Kobe bus #2 get off at nunobiki or Kobe Subway: get off at

Shin Kobe

8:00~8:15 影を描く・draw shadows

8:15 ダイイン die-in

8:30 神戸 YMCA へ移動 Move to Kobe YMCA

8:40 アメリカの反核活動家とスカイプをつないで、平和や核について語り合う

Skype with anti-nuclear and peace activists in the US



シャドー・プロジェクト

核戦争になれば、私たちも影になってしまいます。

核戦争は絶対にしてはいけません！

亡くなられた方々への追悼と平和への願いをこめて

私たちは、シャドーを描いてみました。



原爆によって影になった人 Shadow of person left by the Hiroshima bomb
http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_j/visit/vist_fr.html

Shadow Project

If there is a nuclear war, we will all become shadows.

We must never allow nuclear war to happen!

We drew these shadows,
praying for those who perished and for peace.



Gathering for Peace with Popoki Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival~Summer! "Is Guam a Peaceful Island?"

Beginning with the first "Gathering for Peace" in 2002, we have periodically held these meetings to provide opportunities to consider what we can do to create peace. Using our perspective as local citizens, we aim to learn the "truth" about various situations to find ways to act for peace.

What is peace? What shape is peace?
Is it possible for films to express peace?
Shall we think about peace together?
Popoki will join us!!



We have planned a Film festival & talk session.



WHEN: 2015.8.7 18:30 – 20:30

WHERE: Kobe YWCA Room Chapel, 5th Floor

1-12-10 Ninomiya-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe Tel. 078-231-6201

FEE: Free (YWCA & YMCA International Cooperation donations are welcome)

SPONSORS: Popoki Peace Project, Kobe YMCA, Kobe YWCA

THEME: Is Guam a peaceful island?
Thinking about militarization and colonialism with Popoki

PROGRAM

- 18:30 Greetings
- 18:35 Peace Machine Journey – Okinawa (15 min., Japanese w/ English subtitles)
Iwanami Shoten DVD Book Okinawa. Popoki and kitten Mimi visit Okinawa and learn about the war and military bases there
- Living Along the Fenceline: Militarization/Colonization (35 min. English w/ Japanese subtitles)
- 19:30 Comments
Dr. Michael Bevacqua, director, Chamorro Studies Center, University of Guam
- 19:45 Group discussion
- 20:15 Discussion/sharing/reflections

Information and Reservations

Popoki Peace Project

ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

or

神戸YMCA International Community Center
(Contact person: Matsuda)

TEL (0 7 8) 2 4 1 - 7 2 0 4

e-mail houshi@kobeymca.org



Film Festival & Talk Session (in Japanese)

【 X Years Later 】 *Japanese with English Subtitles

◆DATE:2015.8.9

◆TIME :14:00(open: 13:30) ~17:00

◆FEE :Free

◆Participants : Students, the public (children are welcome)

◆WHERE: Takigawa Memorial Hall (1-1, Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe)

Rokkodai Campus Map: <http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/access/rokko/campus.html>

* Takigawa Memorial Hall is No.39

Access: Get off at JR Rokkomichi station or Hankyu Rokkou station. Take Kobe city bus No.36, get off "Kobe university Bunri Nougaku Bu Mae"

<http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/access/rokko/other-transportation-terminals.html>

Map: http://www.org.kobe-u.ac.jp/svsc/documents/takigawa_map.pdf

◆ Information and Reservations : tel 078-803-6256 / e-mail: hq-vol@lab.kobe-u.ac.jp

*E-mail subject: "8/9 reservation", 1. your name 2. numbers 3. Transportation (If you are driving, please let us know.)

◆SPONSOR: Volunteer center for students of Kobe University

◆Film Story

In 1954, the Japanese fishing boat Daigo Fukuryu Maru, with a crew of 23, along with many other boats were exposed to nuclear fallout by the detonation of a hydrogen bomb.

58 Years later a documentary crew revisited the incident and interviewed surviving fishermen, including some from other Japanese boats in the area, to bring to light an ordeal whose full impact has been kept in the dark.

Watch a trailer in Japanese at: <http://x311.info/> 13

◆Program

13:30 Open

14:00 Greetings

14:05 X Years Later (83min)

15:30 Break

15:45 Talk Session

Director Hideaki Ito and Professor Ronni Alexander

16:15 Q and A

17:00 Closing

Popoki in Print

- 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 Shimbun* (2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana
- “Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.23 p.8)
- “Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)
- ‘Draw inner thoughts about disaster’ *Yomiuri Shimbun* 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)
- “‘Safe’ and ‘Secure’ Society is from the bottom-up”, *Mainichi Shimbun Interview with Ronni Alexander*, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)
- R. Alexander. “Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
- “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 Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- “Voice for Peace made into a book” Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- K. Wada. “Conversations with Ronni Alexander: The Popoki Peace Project; Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki, What Color is Friendship?” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol.13, No.2, 2011, 257-263
- S. McLaren. “The Art of Healing”(Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
- 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)
- “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 (No longer available)
- *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
- Human 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/>
- * **Back issues of Popoki News:** http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html





What Popoki Means to Me

Ronyan

More than nine years have passed since I began the Popoki Peace Project. I have poured a lot of time and energy into it, and these years have been filled with both laughter and tears. Popoki has become such a part of my everyday activities as a scholar, educator and living person that I cannot imagine life without him. I am deeply grateful to Popoki and all his nyan friends.

What Popoki means to me. You might be surprised to know that I often feel lonely and frequently lose my confidence. I was so happy when Popoki came to live with me. That was more than twenty years ago, but things haven't changed much. Popoki is in my heart now, but he still scolds and encourages me, and cheers me on. He always supports me when I start something new, and comforts me when I am lonely or sad.

Popoki Peace Project is important to me, too. Since I was a child, I have always been involved in some kind of action for 'peace'. Many activities were fun and interesting, and I liked them, but I was never able to find exactly what I was looking for in a peace action group. I am not sure where Popoki's activities will go from here, but they are very important to me. The truth is that I would like all the nyans to participate more and to take initiative to move us together in new directions. But I also try hard not to force it on anyone. Sometimes that makes it lack coherence. But that is me, too.

Popoki is also essential for me in my search to define peace. I have a feeling that there are different kinds of 'peace' at each step of life. Moreover, each of them has different shapes, scents, and colors and changes with the moment. Popoki is my inner peace, but also my companion in seeking and creating world peace.

At the Po-kai the other night, I asked everyone what Popoki meant to them. 'Understanding;' 'a door;' 'freedom;' 'someone I'd like to take a walk with;' 'connection;' Popoki is all of those things for me, too, but also more than that. Maybe for me, Popoki is peace.



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](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com))



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!



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