



It is the end of March, and flowers are blooming everywhere around Popoki's home. He is happy to greet the cherry blossoms again and hopes you can be outside in the sun greeting flowers, too.

Popoki's Hot News!



Popoki sends his love and vibrant energy to his friends in Fiji who have been affected by cyclone Winston, hoping that relief and recovery will happen quickly.



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, **Suzankanyan**, sent the following piece of peace:

"Chirp Chirp Chirp Chun Good Morning!! I am awakened by a sparrow's beautiful song. The warm sunshine is entering my room, how nice! Maybe I'll open the window...hmm...sweet smell, what flower would that be. Oh, and look at the neighbors' cats, running around, genki since the morning. Ok, let's get up and make some good breakfast. Today...I'll do...yes!! I have my sweet Sakura jam!!

SPRING IS HEEERE!! (^~)/"

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>

March 31st!
See you
there!

Gathering for Peace with Popoki

~Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival No.6~

“Tsunami! Creating peace with the Popoki Friendship Story Project”

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!!



Please bring
your own
drinking cup!



This year we will focus on the Popoki Friendship Story Project in
 Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture. Please come watch videos,
 have a snack, hear reports and talk together about
 your work in Tohoku, concerns and peace!!

WHEN: 2016.3.31 18:30 – 20:30

WHERE: Kobe YWCA

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: Tsunami! Creating Peace with the Popoki Friendship Story Project

PROGRAM

- 18:30 Greetings The Popoki Friendship Story project
- 18:35 Learn about the situation in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture
 Video: “Ganbappeshi!” Photos: Ito Yoko
- 18:45 Popoki Friendship Story Project Videos from the beginning
 - ① Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho 2, 2011.5 (6 min.)
 - ② Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho 2, 2011.8.15-19 (4 min.)
 - ③ Popoki Friendship Story in Guam 2011.9.8-13 (4 min.)
 - ④ Comments from participants in 2013, 2015
- 19:10 A little bit of discussion!
- 19:20 Report from February 2016 Video and reports from participants
- 19:50 Discussion/sharing/reflections

Information and Reservations

Popoki Peace Project

ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

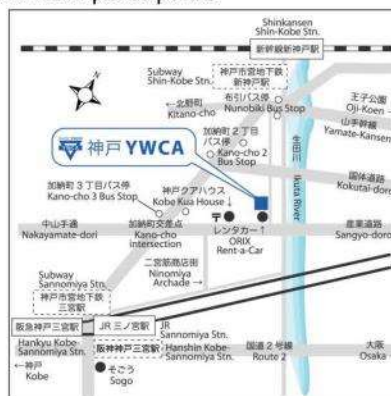
or

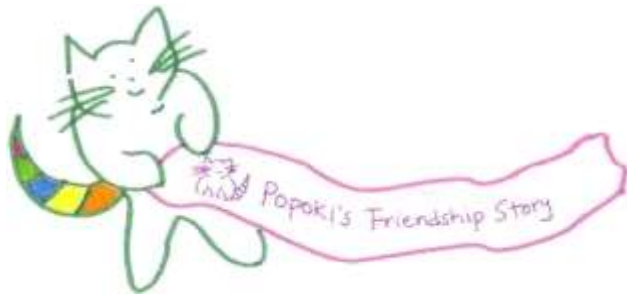
神戸YMCA International Community Center

(Contact person: Matsuda)

TEL (078) 241 - 7204

e-mail houshi@kobeymca.org





Popoki's Interview

Interviewers: Maikanyan, Mayukonyan
Interviewee: Honyan (Professor Hounoki Kaoru)

We interviewed Honyan. She went to Otsuchi last month as a member of Popoki friendship story. We want to share her interesting story with you.

Q. Why did you join this Popoki Friendship story in Otsuchi this time?

Ronni sensei and I have known each other for 20 years. After we taught the omnibus course about gender equality at Kobe University, we started to see each other on a daily basis. The outbreak of the Great East Japan Earthquake was after the course. At Kobe University, Prof. Matsuoka takes student volunteers to Ofunato City about once every two months. I concluded an agreement with Ofunato when I was the dean, but since I was the dean, I had no chance to visit Ofunato. I always wanted to go there, so after I served out my term I visited Ofunato, I came to realize that a strong relationship between Kobe University and Ofunato, especially Akasaki area has already been made.



On the other hand, as regards the theme of 'Disaster and gender', I researched the disaster's impact on women after the Great Hanshin Earthquake. This research result was reflected in the national recovery plan, and I was satisfied with this result. However I was shocked that a similar situation was repeated after the Great East Japan Earthquake. I got a research

grant so that I could start a new project. I asked Ronni sensei to join this project as a member. Since working together in this project, I got interested in Popoki project in Otsuchi. I had been thinking that I wanted to see their activity and visit Otsuchi for long time. I also told this to Ronni sensei. This year, I was able to fit my schedule to visit Otsuchi, so I decided to join.

In short, I have been struggling with the contradiction between the research of the Great Hanshin Earthquake and reality, then I met Popoki project and joined it.

Q. What did you feel from visiting Otsuchi?

I wondered what powers the people's motivation to overcome this disaster. They



are forward looking and they try to re-establish their lives. Chiffon san told us her experience about how everything was swept away, even though we were meeting each other for the first time. How can she be so positive after that experience? I bet that she enjoyment and skill at baking cakes and making things by hand was not her only motivation in opening her cake shop; there must be something else. I was

very impressed by her positive attitude despite having suffered extensive damage. A woman at *Gurutto Otsuchi shop* told me, 'To concentrate on handwork allows me to forget everything.' I understand that handwork allows her to make her mind empty, however I thought there is something else that makes them to gather at the shop to make their crafts. I do not know what the 'something else' is yet. When they repeat their stories, both the listener and the speaker have tears in their eyes, but the stories gradually become shared. I think this is important because this connection means they do not keep their grief inside themselves. As a victim of the Hanshin Earthquake myself, I could feel sympathy with many of their experiences.

The problem they need to solve is about people's life after they leave temporary housing. Whether they can leave temporary housing or if they can adjust to the new place are urgent problems. Not only these issues, but how they rebuild the town is also an important issue. In most cases, town planning reflects only men's opinions. But it has to be changed to include women's voices. Without this change, towns that are truly strong against disaster cannot be built. When an earthquake strikes, people are inevitably killed and others lose their jobs. But we need a structure that supports people to live in such circumstance. I think this is the most crucial issue. They need to consider town planning where both men and women are breadwinners. In the Tohoku area, the pattern of employment and structure of industry are complex. I think this makes it more difficult than Hanshin.

Q. What is the difference between the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake and the Great Northeast Japan earthquake?

The earthquake in Hanshin was an urban type, and everyone in the area suffered from the earthquake and fires. However in Tohoku, there was an exact boundary line of tsunami within the area. Also most people in Hanshin were salaried workers. On the other hand, in Tohoku, there are both salaried workers and people working in primary industries. Fisheries come first, and the marine products industry



grows around the fishery. After that, self-owned businesses are finally established. Everyone works and they make their living collectively. So it is important to restore the fisheries. Since jobs in fisheries are divided on the basis of gender, it is important for men to start to go fishing. Otherwise the marine products industry or any other subordinate work cannot be established.

In people's minds, without reproducing of this job-sharing between men and women, recovery itself cannot be possible. This can be seen in the labor situation right after the earthquake. Men went to work to remove debris, and were paid. On the other hand, in many cases women cooked for evacuees for free. I also heard that at one evacuation shelter, using the experience of the Hanshin, people made walls from cardboard to create privacy for nursing babies or for women to change their clothes. However, in another location, a man claimed that they did not need those walls since they were all one family, so they were not able to make those private spaces in that shelter.

What I feel most was the difficulty of support for victims and the stricken area. How should we support them to move forward? It is not enough to only criticize. I have not found the answer yet, but I think Popoki's activity is one trying to put into 'practice' a solution to this question. Joining Popoki may give me some tips to know how people become forward-looking. I think one of the answers to how to support them would be the same solution as the continuing issues from Hanshin. I want to avoid the same situation in another place if another disaster occurs.

Q. What is your next study outlook?

My research field is gender studies in education. It includes school education and my interest is in social education, mainly in adult education. So I also study about labor issues since labor cannot be cut from adult society. Since I'm not a labor economist, I do not study about the social structure itself, although I'm interested in it. Moreover what I really want to look at is people. How humans live, and how they can live in this society is my study theme.

I believe that to continue to ask questions is the way to solve issues. Without any questions, the answer will never be sought. There are many difficult questions to answer, and I think I can come close to the answer by the way I ask the question. I also want to know how women who suffered extensive damage have a positive outlook after an

earthquake. Some can look forward but some cannot. What is the difference between them? I think to find the answer to this question, it is best to look at those who are forward looking.

I also want to see people not only as a research subject to analyze them, but to ask ‘why?’ from their viewpoint. My research subject and people in real life should match. I think my attitude that seeing from their viewpoint is similar to Popoki project. I would like to continue the study making new questions and look for the reason along with people.

Thank you for your precious time, Hounoki sensei !

**Report: The ‘Peace Forum for Our Future’
(Looking at Japan from Abroad⇔Fukushima
Nuclear Accident⇔Our Lives)**



Michiko Matsuda
International Community Center, Kobe YMCA

On 22 February 2016, we greeted Steven Leeper (former director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Center) and Arnie Gundersen (nuclear power technology expert) as guests at a “Peace Forum for Our Future” to discuss nuclear power, humanity and peace. More than 130 people gathered at the event, indicating both the level of interest in peace work and the degree of fear of nuclear power. The Forum was held at the Coop Kobe Life Culture Center, and sponsored by the Kobe YMCA, Coop Kobe and UNICEF Hyogo, with the cooperation of the Kobe YWCA and Popoki Peace Project. You can watch it on Ustream (in Japanese, 150 min.) at: <http://iwj.co.jp/wj/open/archives/288351>.

The Forum began with a report by Coop Kobe of the NPT Conference held in New York in 2015. Mr. Gundersen spoke about the danger of aging nuclear power plants, and Mr. Leeper discussed the importance of building a culture of peace. Participants reflected on the importance of what they had learned and their empathy for the nuclear evacuees. There are people still living in Fukushima and Northeastern Japan, those living near nuclear power plants, families who have evacuated, people working in the nuclear industry, and all of us – so many different ways of living. It is important for us to learn and gain knowledge about peace, nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Mr. Leeper’s message that we need to follow our own instincts and act, speak out, and love and respect one another was very powerful.

This Forum was sponsored jointly by the Kobe YMCA, Coop Kobe and UNICEF Hyogo. It was a good chance for us to talk together and we vowed to continue to work together for peace.

Barefoot Gen goes to Waldron Island

Carmelanyan

Thanks to the kind offices of Watanabe Tomoko-san, director of the peace-building organization ANT-Hiroshima, a full 10-volume set of *Barefoot Gen* (the English translation of *Hadashi no Gen*) was presented to the Waldron Community library. Waldron is a small island in Washington State with approximately 80 full-time residents, 10 of whom are children in the one-room elementary school. Both children and adults now have the opportunity to know even more deeply about the horrors of war and the resilience of the human spirit.

Barefoot Gen, (*Hadashi no Gen*), as many readers already know, is the autobiographical manga (graphic novel) by Nakazawa Keiji relating his childhood experience of living through the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. With complete clarity and great skill the author invites readers to experience for themselves the cruelties and absurdities of war.



Photo:

Judie Wilgress, member of the board of the Waldron Community Library, stands in front of the library to accept, on behalf of the whole community, the gift of *Barefoot Gen*.

‘Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from Fukushima’ Exhibition

Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace marked the 5th anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster through the exhibit, “Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from Fukushima” by photojournalist Takashi Morizumi. The exhibition was at the University Art Gallery, University of Pittsburgh and was held from 15-18 March. It featured 25 beautifully designed panels by Lisa Rasmussen. Four of the panels, titled “Downwinders,” featured Morizumi’s photographs of the land, people, and remains of the Fukushima plant with the photographer’s observations and residents’ testimonials.



These introductory panels contextualized the main exhibition, with each of 20 panels highlighting two views of an abandoned object (cap, soccer ball, plant, shoe, etc.). The larger



view reveals the radiation contained in the object—a strange beauty. The smaller view, for reference, is of the object in situ. The statement by the artist is both heart rending and urgent.

Following a wonderful opening reception on March 15 was a panel discussion. Mr. Morizumi skyped into the event with a report about the current situation in Fukushima with bags of radioactive soil piled behind him in what was a farmer's field (below left). Pittsburgh Jazz violinist Kei Rush generously translated for Morizumi. Zeba Ahmed, a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate and a Fulbright Scholar reported on her trip to Japan and Fukushima. Dr. Patricia DeMarco, a biologist and Rachel Carson scholar, spoke of the dangers of radiation and nuclear waste, to which we have no safe solution (right image below: L: Zeba Ahmed, R: Dr. Demarco).



The exhibition and panel were highly effective in bringing public attention to the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster anniversary and the ongoing dangers and challenges of nuclear energy. The Morizumi exhibition, which is designed to be easily transported from one location to another, will be shown in Pittsburgh again as we approach the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

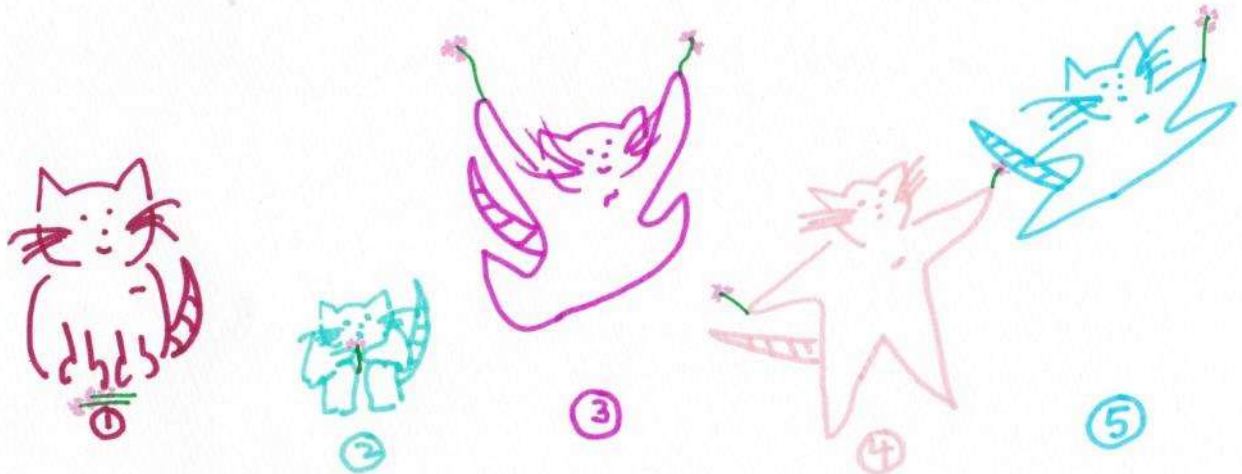
“Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from Fukushima” is sponsored by Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace; Center for Disaster Management; Department of History of Art and Architecture; University of Pittsburgh Art Gallery; and Popoki Peace Project; with support from Scenic Corporation of New York and the Asian Studies Center of the University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh. Exhibition panels and handout designed by [Lisa Rasmussen](#).



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 94

This month focuses on enjoying the spring (apologies to those in other seasons)!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful. Put two flowers in front of you.
2. Next, holding your flowers, crouch, making yourself as small as possible. Bend your nose into your flowers for a good sniff!
3. Now, leap into the air, making yourself TALL!
4. Finally, stand and stretch back opening up your arms and chest and taking a deep breath.
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: 2016.4.20 19:00~20:20 Kobe YMCA

2016.3.31 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival 18:30~20:30 Kobe
YWCA Everyone welcome! See page 2 for details



From Popoki's friends....

New photo collection! Akagi, Shunji. *Fukushima Traces 2011-2013*. Osiris, 2015. Orders:
<http://www.shashasha.co/en/book/fukushima-traces-2011-2013/>

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

Kennyan

The past few years, I met lot of elementary school students.

Healthy kids.

Quiet kids.

Serious kids.

Curious kids.

Kids who don't listen to others.

Kids who laugh a lot.

Kids who cry.

Kids who like to fight.

Kids who like to give questions.

Restless kids and others.

There were really kids of various characters.

They express themselves exactly the way they feel it.

They laugh when they are interested and

do not listen when they are bored.

That was very interesting.

And those wonderful kids I did not treat just as kids.

I treated them as individuals.

And expressed my feelings the way I felt it.

Then the kids responded to me in a very natural way

and we had a great time!!

I think it's really important to open your heart.

Laughing, crying, being happy, getting angry.

All are beautiful and natural things.

I was so glad to have this experience.

It has been a short time since I met Popoki

Popoki makes me think about different things,

listen to various opinions,

learn new things.

And the happiness I felt with kids,

I would like to share with Popoki too.

I hope to know Popoki more and more.

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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