



It has been really hot!

When it is too hot, Popoki finds a shady spot to take a nap.

How about you? Do you have a way to stay cool without using lots of electricity?

Popoki's Hot News!



Upcoming: Popoki's Peace and Health Workshop at Hyogo University of Health Sciences. 15 October!



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, **Chakma-nyan**, sent the following piece of peace:

"When we learn to help and pray for others we find true Peace. So, let's work together for humanity and peace and explore our peace prayers in the world"

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.



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



Popoki Peace Project・ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト 10th Anniversary

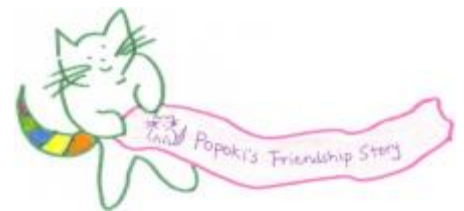
How should we celebrate Popoki Peace Project's 10th Anniversary?

It has been 10 years since Popoki Peace Project began.

Four books. Lots of nyan-friends. Many different workshops. Study tours.

About 200 meters of Popoki's friendship Story cloth. Lots of smiling faces.

What do you think we should do to reflect on the first 10 years, and look forward to the next ten?



Here are some of the suggestions we have already gathered....

- **Make new t-shirts**
- **Popoki goods (bags, hats, clear files, etc.)**
- **Popoki postage stamps**
- **Film showing (Nuclear? Something rather expensive? Several films?)**
 - **A party or overnight gathering to talk about Popoki**
- **Have a section at the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2016 Forum**
- **What is your suggestion?**
- **Please send it to ronniandpopoki@gmail.com !**



My second Nada Challenge experience!!

Mayukonyan

On July 3rd, the 22nd Nada Challenge was held this year. It was very hot day but we enjoyed drawing with chalk, and blowing bubbles the whole day with many kids. This was my second time joining Nada Challenge and I was happy to see some Popoki members who I have not seen for a year.

Last year, since I was busy with practicing the dance for the stage, I did not fully understood about this event's meaning or its origin. However this time, I had a chance to participate in a meeting of the executive committee in May. Through this meeting I have learned that students and local people have done several meetings and discussions, many people work behind and help each other to make this event a successful one.

Knowing those efforts and thoughts, I was able to enjoy Nada Challenge much more than last year with Popoki members and kids☺



Drawing with
chalk ☺



Popoki members enjoyed
Bingo!



Popoki and His Friends were Excited and Happy to Overcome the Challenge of Diversity at Nada Challenge Festival, 2016

**Channyan
Mayukonyan**

First and foremost, the Challenge faced by Popoki and his friends was starting from the Challenge of the Bad Weather Information. Before that Festival, Popoki and his friends were warned that the Nada Challenge Festival would be cancelled because of Bad Weather information. Fortunately, Popoki and friends were happy because the weather was fine enough to play many games and to make many interesting activities with diverse people successfully. That's why Popoki and his friends could participate in Nada Challenge Festival in Tokagawa Park on July 3, 2016 happily and joyfully.

This Festival was 22nd Anniversary Day for Nada Challenge as it has been held for more than 20 years. It is interesting that some students from Kobe University and people from Nada started that Challenge for the purpose of encouraging the Community when Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake hit Kobe in 1995. That Memorial Fact reflected and challenged the important of mutual-help among the diverse people and how well that local people and community can be organized as diverse community for the purpose of evacuation shelter operations, temporary housing and rehabilitation process for all the people. Especially, the Challenge was hoping to encourage and create Nada as a Diverse Community because People living in Nada were different in Ages, Abilities, Ethnicities, Nationalities and so on. It is seen that the Nada Challenge was playing a significant role in creating the Diverse Community through "Unity in Diversity".

Popoki and his friends were also enthusiastic to overcome the Challenge of Diversity by means of unity and peace. No one can deny that the Differences are sometimes leading to make diversities between us. However, Popoki and his Friends were happy and eager to solve the Challenge of diversity because all Popoki's Members love and respect both Diversity and Unity.

It is very interesting that how Popoki and his friends overcome diversity. Someone might be surprised that how Popoki's and his friends are always happy and peaceful. But, Popoki already has had the simple answer, i.e. "Unity in Diversity". Actually, Popoki's friends are comprised with diverse ages, abilities, ethnicities, and nationalities.

In Nada Challenge Festival, Popoki and his friends performed hard and flourished in acting unity. Popoki and friends performed various activities such as a Popoki goods shop, colorful chalk drawings and soap bubbles games especially for kids. The Popoki and friends made a free space for blowing soap bubbles and free drawing space on the ground for the children to draw pictures freely and happily. Moreover, Popoki and friends walked around to flea markets and enjoyed interesting games, traditional art performance and enjoyed

delicious fried noodles, and deep-fried chicken.

The performances and unity of Popoki and friends ensured that the diverse people could achieve the preciousness of unity in Diversity. Although Popoki members are from different religions, languages, ethnicities, nationalities, cultures, ages and abilities, they could show the possibility of forming a unique society in diversity. At the same time, the people living in Nada are different in ages, abilities, and nationalities and so on whereas the Nada Challenge Festival reflected that we Nada people overcome the Challenge of Diversity through Unity.



Popoki and his friends went to Kodomo no Sato in Kamagasaki and had fun activities with children there! (Kamagasaki has been known as one of the biggest towns of day labor workers in Japan. Kodomo no Sato was originally established to provide a safe and free playground for the children there in 1977. Now, Kodomo no Sato is open for everyone not only for children, but also for parents who need a safe place to play, rest, stay, or belong to.)



Firstly, we read a few pages from Popoki books to make them feel closer to peace. The children were very into this reading.

In the next part, we had two activities. The aims of these activities were to feel the efficacy of unity when you have to solve problems with other people, but also the difficulties of it. In the first game, each small group of 7~8 people had to stand on a piece of newspaper. The facilitator instructed the group to fold the paper again and again so at the end of this game, some participants were standing in one leg or even carrying other children piggyback.

In the next game, we all had to stand up together while keeping our arms around each other's shoulders and also keeping our ankles together. The more people in one group, the harder it was to stand altogether. We found out that it's much easier if we get closer to each other and help balancing each other.

After these activities, Ms. Shoho, the director of Kodomo no Sato, showed us a video about Kodomo no Sato.

It was a great experience for us to play with these very energetic, children at Kodomo no Sato who are also struggling with their difficulties like poverty or coming from single parent homes. We hope that the children, too, have had a good opportunity to think about peace and unity.



Hiroshima Day Skype



Popoki began this 71st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima as he has done every year for the past several years. He and his friends outlined their shadows on the pavement in the bright, hot morning sunlight, and then at 8:15 did a die-in, lying on the pavement and imagining how it must have been that morning in Hiroshima when the bomb exploded.

We then went to the YMCA and in spite of some problems with technology, had an interesting conversation with activists in Pittsburgh, USA from Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace and activists in Guam. We began with each giving an update of changes during the past year. Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace talked about an exciting photo exhibit by Japanese photographer MORIZUMI Takashi. The photos use a special technique to make the radioactive contamination of everyday objects from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident visible. The update from Guam was a disturbing report about military expansion in pristine and culturally significant areas in the north of Guam and also the expansion to other islands in the Marianas. This expansion is directly related to relocation of US Marines from Okinawa to Guam. The report from Japan focused on continued efforts by the nuclear industry, with government support, to re-start reactors and start building new ones in spite of strong opposition from many citizens. The Japanese government has also increased its efforts to change Article 9 of the Constitution, upgrade the Self-Defense Force to a regular military and to send Japanese military forces abroad.

The ensuing conversation first focused on activism. In response to a question from Morinyan about youth participation in politics, we learned that while many young people were enthusiastic Sanders supporters, it is unclear whether they will support Hillary Clinton or instead not vote or support the Green Party. We also learned that the US is very divided and an ongoing problem is that the different sides do not talk to each other.



Yeninyan suggested that this is also a problem in Indonesia, where post-election divisions and hostility run deep. Channyan added that in Myanmar, the participation of youth is essential for the transition to democracy to be successful. In the US, it is a dangerous moment but also one of hope and energy. It might be a time to change US politics and also to confront important issues such as environment, inequality and racism. Of course, how that will or will not happen will be greatly affected by the result of the November election.

From Guam, we learned that Chamorro people have been there for thousands of years,

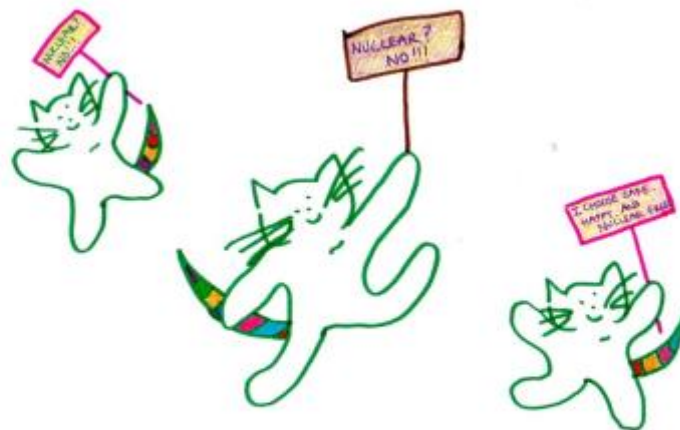
in contrast to the US, which only has a short history. Guam is very important to the military because it believes that even if all the other US bases outside of the mainland are expelled, it would still have Guam. But people on Guam are getting ready to decide on whether they want their future to be as part of the US, in free association with the US or independence.



The conversation took place after a showing of 'Containment,' a documentary about nuclear waste, in Pittsburgh. Ronyan reminded the group that there is no place to dispose of the nuclear waste in Japan, especially all the soil taken during decontamination in Fukushima. Nuclear power is said to be clean, but if you consider the mining, milling, production, transport and waste, it is really like having a huge apartment complex without any toilets.

There was agreement all around, and Prof. Bevaquca talked about how there have been nuclear weapons on Guam since the Cold War. There have been in Japan, too, although they are not supposed to be here.

We said good-bye, wishing each other well, looking forward to conversing again next year, and remember why we had gathered today – to remember Hiroshima and to imagine and create a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. Thanks to everyone for joining in the conversation.



Reflections on Visiting Kumamoto with Popoki

Mionyan



It has been about a month since visiting Kumamoto. I'm surprised that my memories have been fading away bit by bit. I stayed there for only two days and less than 20 hours in the evacuation shelter in Mashiki, but it feels like it was much longer because my experience left me with conflicted feelings.

Some facts have begun to recede in my memory, but one unusual image is still clear in my mind. The picture, the face with an arrow and a knife through it, was in black and red. It is too grotesque for his age. He was about ten years old. Although he was particular about using a black marker, he chose red for the wound. It was painful to see. Earthquakes are natural disasters, so they aren't anyone's responsibility. However we might feel accountable, if he draws in dark colours all his life.

Therefore I want to help him and the other children in Kumamoto, so that they can paint and draw beautiful pictures in bright and vivid colours.

Visiting Kumamoto

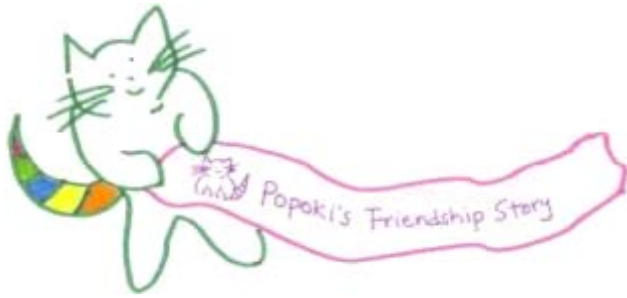
Mochi-nyan

I visited an evacuation center run by the Kumamoto YMCA in July. I was surprised that people were still staying in the center and in the parking lot, or in their partially destroyed homes. I could feel they were trying so hard in a situation where the future is unclear.

I felt that while we live and receive the benefit of nature, we must not forget that sometimes nature is very strong and we must live with that, too. I realized how important housing environments are for support and welfare of families.

Pray for KUMAMOTO and listen to the voice of the KUMAMOTO.





Popoki's Interview

Interviewer: Morinyan (Kyoko HIGASHI)

The continuing story of the nuclear plant disaster
~The case of the S family evacuating from Kanto~

It has been 5 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Just a year ago, I introduced a story of voluntary evacuation from nuclear disaster. Among the people I interviewed, I especially focused on the S family evacuating to Kansai from the Kanto district. The situation now, 5 years later, is that the Fukushima government is recommending to residents of Fukushima to return to their hometowns. But we still have not solved other issues relating to the nuclear disaster, such as all evacuees being given the right of evacuation, the disposal problem of decontamination waste, and so on. In spite of these situations, the government has begun resuming operations at nuclear plants around the country. I again asked the S family to tell me their story of these 5 years.

○ Are there any changes in government support for the evacuees?

We, meaning people who are voluntary evacuees from Kanto, haven't had any support from the beginning. Kobe emergency management center sends us information about events and other things every month, but the number of events is decreasing every year. I feel that the concern about the great disaster has lost substance. Especially after the Kumamoto earthquake, I feel many people think that the Kumamoto earthquake and Fukushima disaster are the same. It is really a shame that people don't understand the difference. Nuclear evacuees are burdened with lawsuits and big problems that will take a long, long time to solve.

○ How about changes in your health or that of your family?

I was talking with other member of our evacuees group recently and heard that some sort of abnormalities have begun to be detected in the thyroid and parathyroid of some of their children. Parents are troubled over which doctor to consult, whether or not to subject their children to a CT scan or to use of contrast dye, or to general anesthesia for follow up after abnormalities have been found. These are gut-wrenching decisions for every parent. I have heard many such stories these days, and it made me realize the importance of

continuing to have regular exams. Each of us has to bear these mental and economic burdens. It is difficult to establish a definite causal connection between radiation from the nuclear accident and a given person's body condition. Because of that, most evacuee parents, especially those from Kanto, feel they have no choice but to bear the burden themselves.

In my case, I suffered a miscarriage recently. I asked a doctor who knows a lot about the case studies of people who were exposed after Chernobyl whether there is a possibility that my miscarriage was caused by radiation from the nuclear accident. The doctor said that in the cases where exposure has led to gene damage, there is a possibility of miscarriage even after 5 years. The Japanese government does not recognize the relation between the nuclear accident and peoples' physical conditions. In the meanwhile, I wonder how many children will be victims.

○ Do you have anything you want people to know?

The Fukushima No.1 plant accident is still not over. I want people to know that even though 5 years have passed, the plant is still releasing radiation-tainted water every day, even though the volume is decreasing, and that there are still zones in Japan to which people cannot return. And I want people to know that the people who are voluntary evacuees are from not only Fukushima but also the Kanto region, like us. The Fukushima accident was a level 7, the same as Chernobyl, and still continues. I want people to know that. Although the accident is not under control or resolved, government policy is to re-start nuclear plants. I am afraid the same thing will happen again if we don't learn from the Fukushima nuclear accident.

What is the "Nuclear power disaster"? It is not only the physical problem of radiation exposure, but also anxiety about exposure as a mental problem. These stories are not



publicized much, and the reality of the nuclear power disaster is not well-known. How can we ensure the right of all people to evacuate, and all evacuees to live where they can be and feel safe? Through this interview, I want to make sure that we keep telling the reality of the nuclear plant disaster and trying to learn the specifics from one another.

Photo: One of the monitoring posts in Fukushima prefecture.

<http://saigaijyohou.com/img/20140731220953sadusi.jpg/>

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 99

Nothing like a magazine on a hot day! This month features a special Magazine Poga!
This month's theme is relaxing and cooling off while reading a magazine.



* It is best to have a large magazine for this Poga.

1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Next, lie on your back and raise your arms, holding your magazine vertically. Now while holding the magazine, slowly stretch your arms straight back above your head, and bring them slowly back.
3. Now, hold the magazine parallel to your body and with your arms still outstretched, bring them slowly to the right, and then the left.
4. Finally, give your tired self a rest. Place the magazine over your face and snooze!
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: 2016.9.2 Kobe YMCA 19:00~

10.7-10 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho!

10.15 14:00~16:00 Popoki Peace and Health Workshop, HUHS

10.28 Popoki workshop at Aboshi High School, Aboshi

11.3 Popoki at York University, Toronto (tentative)

11.7 Popoki in Pittsburgh!

Late December Ponenkai

2017.2 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho



From Popoki's friends....

7.28 Memorial ceremony for children who drowned in a flash flood, 7/28/2008. Togagawa Park (across from Daiei) 14:00~15:00. Paper cranes welcome!

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

Hazuki Takeshita

“Take root in the ground, live in harmony with the wind, plant your seeds in the winter, and rejoice with the birds in the coming of spring.”

This is a quote from Hayao Miyazaki’s movie “Castle in the Sky”. This sentence makes me imagine the greatness of nature and the sounds that each season makes, and then I feel like my spine has straightened. I really like these beautiful words.

Living with nature and animals might not be always easy. And similarly, communicating with other people is tough sometimes. However, because of that, when I feel the marvel of nature, see a new sprout or reach understanding with someone, it will cheer me up or make me happy.

It was this spring when I first met Popoki. In the activities I joined, I met many people from many countries. We helped each other and had various conversations. Popoki made me have renewed thoughts that I want to live peacefully in the greatness of nature with everyone helping each other. This is what Popoki means to me, I think.



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

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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Postal Account number: 00920-4-28035

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THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!