



In Kobe where Popoki lives, October means the beginning of leaves turning colors and Halloween! Popoki loves both of these. We hope you have safe and enjoyable autumn walks and Halloween celebrations.

Popoki's Hot News!



Upcoming November 12-13 Kobe University Peace Forum film festival! December event! 12/10-11 Convention on the Rights of the Child Forum 2016 in Kansai and especially Popoki's session. A-7 on the 11th! Advance registration is required. (See page 9 for details).



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

"When my children quarrel about trifles, I feel peace paradoxically. Of course sibling battles are annoying. But I make myself listen to reason by thinking that peace enables siblings to demand attention in this way."

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/WYdWwmwogE>



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

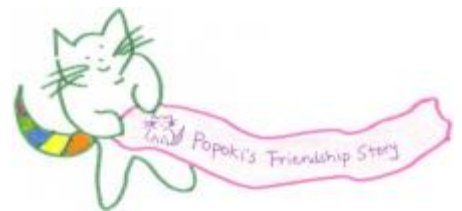
How should we celebrate Popoki Peace Project's 10th Anniversary?

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 !**





Participating in the “Memorial Service for Victims of the Togagawa Accident”

Channyan & Yakonyan

On 28 July 2016, Popoki Peace Project joined the “Memorial Service for Victims of the Togagawa Accident” held by “Group to make 7/28 ‘Protect the Lives of Children Day’” in Togagawa Park, Kobe. The memorial service took about an hour, and more than 100 people gathered along with some passers-by who stopped to listen attentively.

This sad accident occurred in the afternoon on 28 July 2008, 8 years ago. It was a sunny day. Yet a torrential rain fell over a limited area. Fifteen minutes after the rain began, the Togagawa River

flooded and 16 people near the river were carried away. As a result, 5 precious lives were lost, including a kindergarten child and two elementary school students.

Popoki’s friends and GSICS students made folded paper (*origami* in Japanese) cranes. With those brought by Ronyan made by other Popoki members, we had about 10 one-meter strands of cranes. Channyan, Chakumanyan, Yakonyan and Popoki brought them to the ceremony.

At the memorial service, Ronyan delivered a wonderful speech. The speech reminded us that at this moment, many lives that could be saved are being lost. She also appealed that we never forget the accident and learn the necessity of the prevention of damage by disasters. Ronyan’s call that “Society should not disregard its children!” moved us greatly. She sent us a message of encouragement to make a society where children’s lives and health can be protected and everyone can live safely and comfortably.

Finally, chorus groups from a local junior high and a local high school sang memorial songs. The beautiful harmony was very impressive. The words and melody of Amazing Grace also touched hearts of Popoki’s friends.

July 28 is the day of both memorial and to pledge not to repeat such a tragedy again. Walking along Togagawa River after the ceremony, a lot of people could be seen playing in the river. The importance of talking about the Togagawa Accident was engraved in my memory.



Popoki in Otsuchi-cho and Kamaishi

Yoshihiro Suzuki

Teaching Assistant, Department of General Medicine
Tokushima University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

I visited to Otsuchi Town and Kamaishi City from 7th -10th Oct. with Ronyan and Satonyan. I went to these areas as a member of AMDA-Hyogo right after the Great East Japan Earthquake and after. It has been around four years since I have been to Tohoku.

Many places in Otsuchi Town are still vacant and look like construction sites. I felt the view was same as the one 4 years ago. But I learned that all the ground has been raised 3 meters and some new houses have begun to be built.

Local people who I met said “This town may be filled by a lot of parks”; “This town won’t recover in our lifetimes”. I felt sad to hear that. But I could hear their words simultaneously with, “After 5 years, I can talk with people”; “I have not gone back to how I was but I have



(Central Otsuchi-cho 2016.10.7)

reset my life”; and I could hear a woman say with a smile, “I could not go out because all my relationships with people in this town changed, but I realized that is not good. A long time has passed. I am OK!” I can feel easy. This area and people have begun to go ahead step by step, but very slowly.

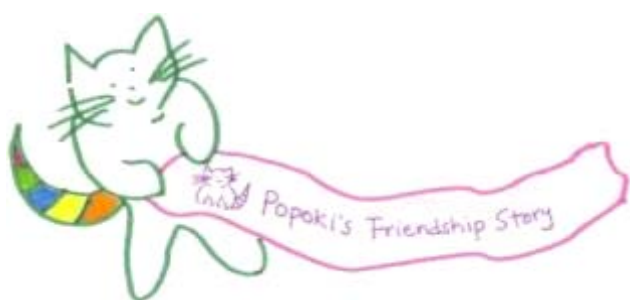
In Kamaishi City, I could meet Mr. Watanabe. He is ex-principal of Kamaishi Junior High School, one of the evacuation centers for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake where I helped as a medical doctor. He became a good friend. Unfortunately, his wife died one day before our Tohoku visit. Regrettably I could not visit her in the hospital, but I could feel a strong connection with Mr. Watanabe because I was able to attend her funeral. In spite of being very sad, he invited us to dinner and talked about his activities which are presentations and lectures about disaster prevention throughout Japan.

This visit taught me many things. From now, temporary houses and stores are going to be closed. I want to keep relations with people there as long as I can. I want to express my appreciation to Ronyan and Satonyan who gave me this opportunity of visiting Iwate, Ms. Motomochi who is a local person and coordinated this visit, Dr. Ueta and Dr. Michimata who practice in Otsuchi and do community medicine, Ms. Ito who is photographer, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. and Ms. Kashiwazaki and all the local people I met.

Please take me again!



(Hyokkori Hyotan Island in the sunset 2016.10.7)



Popoki's Interview

Interviewer: Hazunyan

Reflecting on volunteering in Otsuchi-cho last February.

It's been five and a half years since the great Tohoku earthquake occurred. It seems like we get less and less opportunities to obtain information about the 3.11 disaster, nuclear power plants or how people live their lives in the devastated area. Two friends of Popoki, Mayukonyan (Mayu) and Maikanyan (Mai) went to volunteer in Otsuchi-cho last February.

They shared various things in this interview: What they felt after going there, what has changed within themselves after that volunteering, and what they feel about Otsuchi-cho now after about half of a year has passed since they went there.

○First of all, what had made you want to volunteer in Otsuchi-cho in February 2016?

Mayu: When 3.11 happened, I didn't feel much shaking. I didn't lose my house or family either. So I feel like I didn't get "stricken" by the earthquake in that context. Because of that, the earthquake wasn't very close to me. However, my friend who has had been to Otsuchi-cho told me to go and see those places if I had an opportunities, so I decided to go.

Mai: To me, 3.11 was the first big earthquake I can remember. I was in Tokyo and was so horrified by seeing the whole city getting panicked when the earthquake happened. I felt something terrible was happening. After that experience, I was always looking for a chance to go to Tohoku and also, I was curious how the cities in Tohoku have changed after 5 years.

○What especially was most impressive to you through your experiences there?

Mai: To me, it's conversations with the local people, I think. When we were displaying Popoki's big cloth with messages from other parts of Japan, one old lady came to talk to us about a ring which was a keepsake from her family.

Mayu: Also, I remember this one father who was abroad on a business trip on 3.11. He told us that he couldn't help crying until he saw his family's faces and talked to them. It was such a surprise that many of Otsuchi's people told us those kinds of private memories and what they had undergone.

Mai: That's true. I thought it would be tough for them to remember and talk about what they had seen, heard, felt, or lost. However, they actually told us many things.

Mayu: I guess that sometimes it's easier to talk to a total stranger than to close people when people in their community have all been heavily damaged.

Mai: In my image, the word "volunteer" means doing physical work, so this time I feel like we went there to listen to people's talking, not to do volunteer work.

Mayu: That's true. I felt I was walking into someone's private space.



Looking down on Otsuchi-cho from a hill.

○What was your impression about Otsuchi-cho?

Mayu: To be honest, I felt like the whole town was vacant. Since we went there in February, the sky was gray, and so was the land.

Mai: Before I went Otsuchi-cho, I imagined that there would be at least some foundations for new buildings since it's been 5 years since the earthquake. Nevertheless, the reality was not

like that. Especially near the ocean.

Mayu: The other thing I found there was that people who came to these places where people gather and talk were mostly women. Maybe men are more likely to hesitate joining those kinds of spaces.

Mai: That's right. There was a taxi driver (man) who told us that he'd like to have a public bath or something like that to build a community for men.

OHas something changed within yourself by going Otsuchi-cho?

Mai: I feel Otsuchi-cho has become much closer to me. For instance, when I'm looking for articles about 3.11 and I see Otsuchi-cho in the title, I pick that one without thinking.

Mayu: 3.11 related news or stories have become to sound much closer and realistic to me after going there.

OYou two have told me that Otsuchi-cho was still vacant after 5years. Then, what do you think is necessary for recovery?

Mai: Well, that really is a difficult question. More "important" cities as economic resources are recovering quicker, I think.



Popki drawn by Otsuchi people.

Mayu: Also, what "recover" means can be different for each person. Should we build a brand-new disaster control town or should we place the familiar town back the way it was?

Mai: That's right. What do we need...? Do we need a capable leader, place or system to exchange opinions, or money? Money is indispensable, but how do we handle priorities when many people need it at the same time? I also wonder if the recovery budget is used in decent ways.

Mayu: After all, going into the field to see, hear, and feel things by yourselves is very important. What you experience will make the "devastated area" much closer to you.

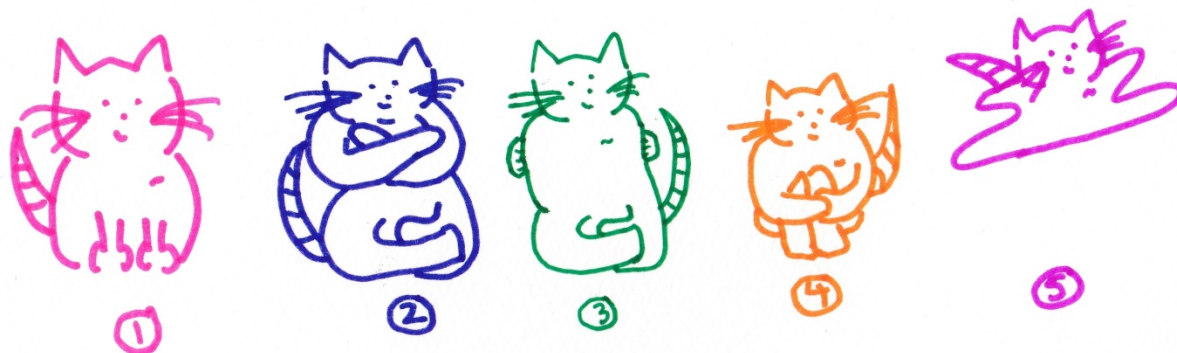
What is really needed to help recovering these "devastated areas" with vacant lands after 5 years? We may not have to exert ourselves to do volunteer work, but we should do what we can do. What we need to do is to make ourselves closer to the afflicted area.



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 101

This month's theme how to stay warm when it starts to get cold!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Next, sit up straight with your legs crossed and tail up. Cross your arms and hug yourself! Now try it again, switching your tail, arms, and legs.
3. This time try hugging yourself from behind! When you're done, switch your arms, tail and legs.
4. And now, sit and hug your knees to your chest. Can you switch your 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: 2016.10.15 HUHS Community Outreach Center, 16:30~
10.26 Popoki workshop at Aboshi High School, Aboshi
10.31 Popoki's Friendship Story Project Report in Pittsburgh!
11.3-5 Popoki's Fukushima Report at York University, Toronto
12.10-11 Popoki WS at Convention on the Rights of the Child Forum, Osaka.

URL: <http://kodomonokenrikansai.wixsite.com/network>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/kodomokenri2016/>

Popoki's session is A-7 on the morning of 11 December. The participation fee: Free (age under 25) / 2000yen (age over 26) for the two days. You must register in advance.

12.14 Ponenkai. Venue to be announced

2017.2.2-5 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho (tentative)

From Popoki's friends....

- 11.12~13 Kobe University Peace Forum Social Science Film Festival – see the world and Japan through Documentaries. 8:00~19:00 Venue: Kobe University Rokkodai Campus I-320. Free! Info: Kobe University Peace Forum <http://iws1970.web.fc2.com/forum.html> (to be posted soon)
Rokkosai Festival website: <http://home.kobe-u.com/rokkosai/>

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
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- 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

Anna-nyan

Good morning Popoki. Genki-nya? How is the weather in Japan-nya?

I met Popoki for the first time at the beginning of my graduate studies. Because Popoki is a cat and I love cats, we directly got involved with each other. But, I quickly found out that Popoki is a very smart cat and thinks about other cats and how to give the voiceless a voice.

Do you know about peace-nya? Have you ever thought about what color, shape it has and why peace is important for everyone in every single part of the world? In nowadays world I can't get around not asking these questions. Just think about the endless seeming number of wars that take place in many parts of the world killing and displacing thousands of people every day. The natural disasters through which people lose their homes and all their belongings. Or the famines that starve people to death. It might seem to you that these scenarios are soooooo far away. But, aren't we all involved in them? Or shouldn't we all try to get involved in them?

Popoki showed me that everyone can be hit very cruelly by fate. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, young or old, European or Asian or American or African. We are all the same. When Popoki and I went to the tsunami hit area around Otsuchi, I realized that. Even though Japan is more than 10.000 kilometers away from my home country the people there are afraid of the same things as I am, home means the same as it does to me and the same things make them happy. That is why we should try our best to support fellow human beings and cats, right? Just be open to new situations and people. And don't be afraid to talk about what you feel-nyan.

Thank you Popoki for the experiences and for opening new perspectives to me-nya. Peace. NYA!



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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THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!