



It is a little bit late for Valentine's Day, but Popoki is sending his love anyway. He hopes your life is already full of love and he is just adding a bit more.

## Popoki's Hot News!



Coming soon\* Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho Report Gathering!  
7 April 19:00~ Venue: Kobe Student Youth Center Fee: free!  
See page 14 for more information



Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival!  
13 May 14:00~16:00 Venue: Kobe YMCA. Visit the new YMCA building,  
too! Fee: free! See page for more information

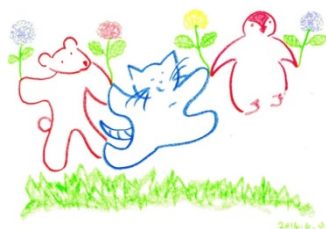
### Piece of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Siwinyan, sent the following piece of peace:

"It is never easy to be apart from your family, I thought that my heart might break every time I call my sons, but when I heard and see them laughing and even crying I realize that their voices give me a serene feeling. I never thought about what is peace for me until Pokoki "poked" me with the question what is peace. Thank you Popoki".

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.



# POPOKI IN OTSUCHI-CHO 2017.2

Yakonyan, Siwinyan, Putrinyan, Reizanyan



From 3 February to 5 February 2017, Popoki Peace Project visited Otsuchi Town in Iwate Prefecture. The members were Siwinyan, Putrinyan, Reizanyan, Yakonyan, Satonyan and Ronyan. For us, the visit was very impressive. We learned so many things.

First of all, we appreciate the Otsuchi people who welcome us warmly. We will never forget this experience and continue to talk with our families, friends and others about Otsuchi. Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity.

## Schedule

### ◆Day 1

- Guidance by Ito Yoko san (Watching a video and looking at photographs)
- Otsuchi tour with Ito Yoko san (Siwinyan, Putrinyan, Reizanyan, Ronyan)
- Visiting temporary housing (Yakonyan, Satonyan) (\*Setsubun: festival for the coming of spring. Beans are scattered in a lucky direction (different every year) in order to chase out evil and welcome good luck and happiness. Sushi rolls are eaten).
- Participation in SHAKE HAND (\*A community-building and support activity centering on decorating and sharing small stuffed salmon. 'Shake' is a pun on the Japanese word for salmon, *shake* or しやけ).

### ◆Day 2

- Exhibition at Mast

### ◆Day 3

- Exhibition at Mast
- Otsuchi tour with Mochinyan
- Reflection at Tsudoi Office with Itosan and Mochinyan

~Day 1~

We arrived at Otsuchi-cho in the morning of 3 February. I was happy to see Mochinyan again. Mochinyan told us about Otsuchi and her effort before in Kobe. Mochinyan drove us to the NPO Tsudoi office and we relaxed to have breakfast with miso soup and delicious *wakame*, a kind of seaweed offered by Mochinyan. This reception (*Omotenashi* in Japanese) made us warm both in body and mind.

After breakfast, we had a lecture about Otsuchi by Ito Yoko san. She is a photographer, who has taken pictures of Otsuchi for decades. At first she showed pictures of Otsuchi before the Great East Japan Earthquake. I felt Otsuchi Town was friendly and sympathetic to us. The comfortable time ended suddenly when I noticed that this town has been lost. Loneliness surged toward me. Then Ito Yoko san showed video and pictures after the earthquake and tsunami. Waves swallowed houses, shops and roads. We stared at the video in blank surprise. I also learned about the big fire occurred in Otsuchi. There was a signal melted by fire in her picture. Red, yellow and green stripes hung like a lump of colored-clay. Looking at these photographs, I felt sad and wanted to cry. Ito Yoko san said that Otsuchi was damaged too much for any media to enter the town at that time. Therefore Otsuchi was lost without reporting. Ito Yoko san hopes that more people know what occurred in Otsuchi and how Otsuchi is now.

After that, I visited a temporary housing community in Otsuchi. The temporary buildings were in the area around rice fields. There were 14 persons including me, Satonyan and 4 support staff members. They were all women (after lunch a male staff member came and supported the activity and a husband joined us). Most of the participants were of advanced aged. We made *makizushi* (rolled sushi). A local woman showed us a bean-scattering ceremony handed down in this area. She moved her hands toward the sky and four directions. Her motion was beautiful and dignified. I felt lighthearted. Then we enjoyed eating *makizushi*. Satonyan explained customs of *setsubun* (the last day of winter: 3 February in 2017) and how we can maintain health in winter. I heard that some meeting places still could not use gas because of lack of official money supply. I hope such a warm meeting place is given to people who need it as soon as possible.

In the afternoon, we joined a SHAKE HAND workshop. The workshop was held by Otsuchi Obachan Club (Otsuchi Women's Club). The organization aims to unite Otsuchi-cho and



other areas through communication with making handmade crafts. We decorated white small dolls called bare salmon. The ladies of Otsuchi Obachan\* Club supported us. We enjoyed it very much. I was very happy to make a decorated salmon. This activity is based on a kind of charity. However, I think that the significance is quite profound because it creates the space of dialogue between here and there. \*Obachan is an informal term for older woman



After that, we prepared for the Popoki Friendship Story Exhibit at Mast – Mast is a shopping center and the center of Otsuchi now. So a long and wonderful day was over.

#### ~Day 2~

At the beginning, I was nervous to do Popoki Friendship Story. I felt a sense of mission. However I found it was wrong because my tension was conveyed to others. Fortunately, so many Otsuchi people came to meet us and provide us with so many delicious foods like taiyaki, pizza, apples, strawberry, roll cake and so on. Thank you very much! That made us considerably full and relaxed.

We displayed some cloths of Popoki Friendship Story that were drawn all over the world and full of longing for peace. With explaining about these cloths and Popoki Peace Project, we did workshop of drawing pictures and messages by visiting people.

I was very happy to talk with the people who came. Children were really pretty and made us cheerful. Adults told us their experiences and what they thought. Their stories were very precious for us. Some people remembered us and said “Thank you for coming again”. It made us joyful and thankful!

#### ~Day 3~

The third day was Sunday. Mast was full of people enjoying shopping and chatting. Through two days, many local people and visitors joined Popoki Friendship Story. We had a good time during our stay in Otsuchi. All meetings were treasures for us. However, for reason of space, I will introduce just a few episodes from the two days.





- S-kun (6 year-old boy) : His picture was a magnificent portable shrine (*omikoshi* in Japanese). According to his grandfather, S-kun liked the festival of Otsuchi very much. It was highly elaborate and impressive. His grandfather told us that he was born 4 months before the East Great Japan Earthquake and lives with his family in temporary housing now. His grandfather encouraged us and gave us a wonderful ornament shaped like a scallop.
- 7 year-old boy from Saitama Prefecture. He said that he came to meet his grandmother who lives in Otsuchi. He seemed to like drawing. He drew colorful pictures of salmon, scallops, coral, flowers, butterflies and stars.
- M-chan (9 year-old girl): She was with her grandparents. She said that she lived in Iwate Prefecture. She was sensible and told us about her pictures. She drew an apple, a strawberry and a grape. She said she liked fruits very much.
- Two high school students (16 year-old girls): They talked with Siwinyan, Putrinyan and Reizanyan in English. My heart was full when I saw their pictures. They draw a picture of fireworks and messages of hope for the future of their beloved Otsuchi.

In the afternoon, Mochinyan drove us to Kozuchi Shrine and the port. We went to see the omikoshi S-kun had drawn. I was surprised to see the omikoshi because S-kun drew it quite accurately. The omikoshi was very splendid. Then Mochinyan brought us to the port. We saw the island, which is model of Hyokkori Hyotanjima. I was glad to meet the island. The red lighthouse seemed to be warm. After that I how they have raised the land near the seaside. I felt the difficulty of recovery.

At night we did a reflection about this Otsuchi visit at the Tsudoi office. I felt happy to visit Otsuchi and meet people in Otsuchi. I hope to visit Otsuchi and walk around the land next time. I appreciate Otsuchi People from the bottom of my heart.

## **POPOKI FRIENDSHIP STORY in OTSUCHI-CHO**

Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

Venue: MAST, Otsuchi-cho

Siwinyan

We had Popoki Friendship Story Exhibition in Otsuchi-cho, there were many participants that join this activity. Some of them drew, and some enjoyed seeing the drawing on cloths from several parts of the world. There were so many exciting new experiences and friends.

### **Day 1**

We started the first day in Otsuchi-cho with Ito-san, a seasoned self-studied photographer who shared her story about Otsuchi-cho. Ito-san showed her video, Otsuchi-cho an ordinary small town with its warm citizens and calm atmospheres, her house, the streets and buildings. She also showed us how the town she loves disappeared in a blink of the eye. Ito-san took us to drive around the town to see the changes after more than 5 years.



Otsuchi-cho



Ito-san shared her story



Vacant Places



Ito-san showed us the town



After that we joined the local ladies in Shake Hand to decorate our salmon. It was so fun, how we gathered together and diligently decorated the salmon. The ladies were so kind and they kept encouraging us to make our salmon pretty

Soon we went to MAST and started to prepare for our exhibition the next day. Before dusk we went to our lodging to take some rest.

## Day 2

We started early and went to MAST to prepare the decoration for the exhibition. It was so fun and exciting! We made several decorations and placed them on the boards.



We asked MAST's customers to visit the exhibition and draw something, anything they want. Our first participant was a little boy, who drew a shrine's gate. After that several people came to draw and some came to see the drawing on the cloths. The Mayor of Otsuchi-cho who had an event in MAST, also visited and wrote a message on the cloth. We ended our exhibition at 5 pm and headed back to our lodging.

## Day 3

This was our last day in Otsuchi-cho. We started at the same time like the day before. Some students from Kobe University visited us and shared their drawing. The second day of exhibition there were more people. One cloth was not enough, and then there was one more cloth to draw. Just like the previous day, we ended the exhibition at 5 pm, and we cleaned up the venue, folded the cloths and took down the decorations. It was an awesome experience, thank you Popoki.





## Otsuchi the Town We Will Not Forget



Earlier this month Popoki took us to visit Otsuchi in Iwate Prefecture, a town that was hit by an earthquake and tsunami on March 2011. It was a very special experience for me, I had this mixture of emotion during the short visit. First I was so excited because it was the first time I join Popoki's activity, and also because it was the first time for me to go far away from Kobe. Popoki's Friendship Story activity ignites so many emotions in me. Happy is the most, I was happy in almost every moments with Popoki. Some other time I feel nervous and uncertain, I got nervous to do something because I'm afraid that I would made mistake.

I was so surprised and touched by the warmth of the Otsuchi-cho, we receive so much kindness. At the beginning I was worried about the fact that I am a foreign student with almost zero Japanese, and thought it would make people reluctant to interact with me. But Otsuchi-cho's citizens are amazing. They welcomed us, and some even gave us gifts. One genki senior citizen even asked me to be her pen pal. I was so happy and almost cried because she was so sweet and kind.



Popoki has given me a wonderful experience, and reminded me to be grateful for what I have, my family, my home, and my friends. Popoki also gave me the opportunity to meet the courageous people of Otsuchi-cho, even after a devastating disaster, they stay strong.



## Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho

Satonyan

We did Popoki Friendship Story activities in Otsuchi-cho in February (2/2-5) this year too, when it is really cold. I want to share two things I felt during our activities. First, I want to ask how you celebrate Setsubun (the day before the first day of spring) at your house. In Kansai, I think that generally people scatter beans and eat makizushi (sushi rolls) made with sardines and dried gourd. This time we went to help with a Setsubun activity in the community center of the Temporary Housing project No. 2. People said, "We have never heard of such things here in Tohoku!" In spite of this, we made makizushi together, and people asked me how we make it in Kansai. Here they put out salmon, crab surimi, conger eel, flying fish eggs, tuna, egg, cucumber, okra, lettuce,

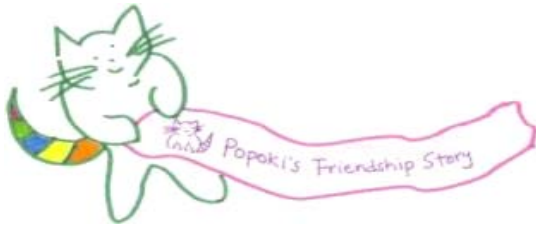


red pickled ginger, and dried gourd. Everyone chose their ingredients and rolled sushi. Tohoku did not have a custom of making sushi rolls but everyone faced in the lucky direction for this year and ate silently. It seems that the influence of convenience store advertising is very strong, and recently people here makizushi for Setsubun. Of course, it is best if you make it yourself! Next, we tossed beans. I thought they would say, "Out

with evil; in with happiness," but they began chanting and clapping as they tossed their beans. "For the heavens, for the earth, for the four directions, crush the ogre's eyeballs!" I have never heard this chant before. I thought Setsubun was celebrated in basically the same way throughout Japan, but I was wrong. And I was also surprised that a commercial can change Japanese customs.

The second thing is that we held our exhibition on the first floor of Mast this year and many people came and thanked us for coming back again. Not only people we know well, but even people we had never met said things like, "I'm so happy you came again this year." And there were people who were so happy to find their drawings from last year. It is hard to say that Otsuchi-cho has recovered sufficiently, but as things gradually move forward I felt that I want to continue to share the changing stories.



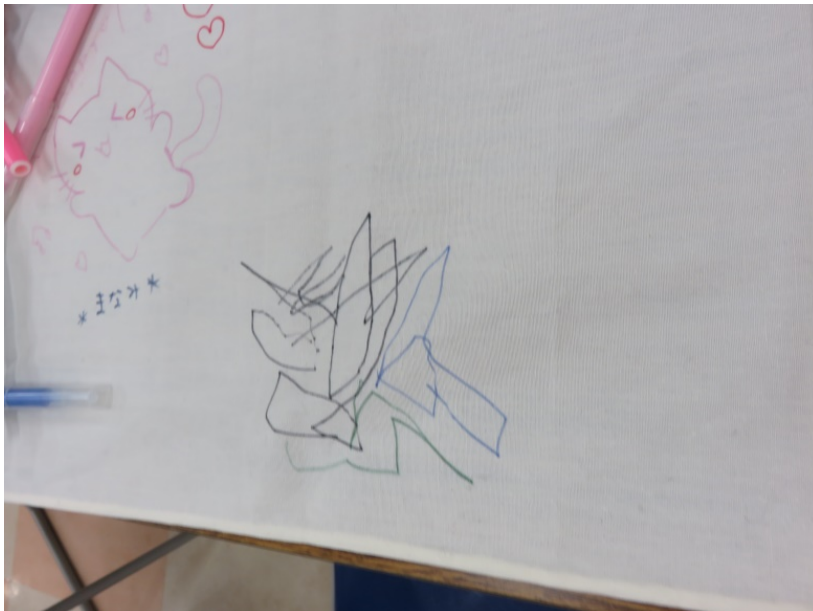


## **\*Popoki's Interview\***

Interviewer: Siwinyan

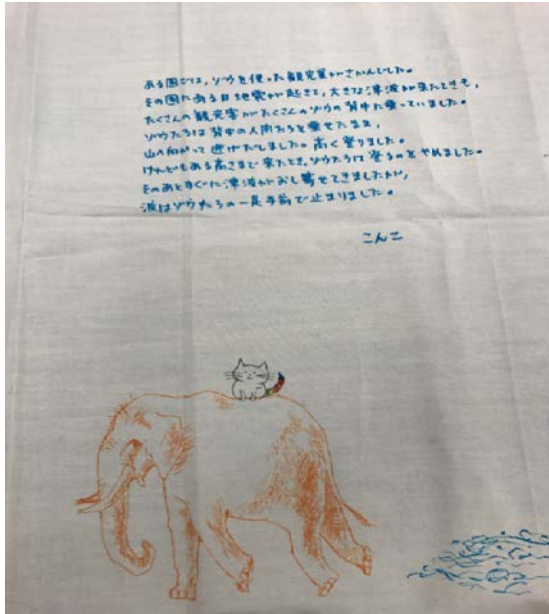
Interviewee: Participants of Popoki Friendship Story

We started Popoki's Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho on February 4<sup>th</sup> in MAST, and there were many people who participated: kids, adults, students. They shared their story to Popoki with their drawings. I personally had difficulty to engage in a conversation with the participants, but with broken Japanese and the help of many people I could understand some stories behind the drawings. There were so many interesting drawings, and I found that the process of the drawing was also interesting. How participants were reluctant at the beginning, but when they began to draw, the awkwardness, the reluctant-ness evaporated.



This picture was draw by a very cute little boy A-kun (?), I found that his drawing is very bold and even though it might not really look like a unicorn, this little boy drew it confidently and his drawing made very one smile.

**A Unicorn**



**Popoki and The Elephant**

This picture was draw by B-san, a university student. She said that her drawing was inspired by a true story about an elephant that ran to higher ground right before a tsunami hit. It seems like the elephant could sense danger and try to avoid it by escaping to a hill or mountainous area. The drawing itself was beautiful. She drew a detailed illustration of the elephant and the wave that followed it. Popoki as the elephant's friend was sitting on his back and accompanied it.



**Grateful**

C-san is one of Popoki friends, she came all the way from another city to meet him and greet him. She wrote a message for Popoki in Japanese so she translated it for me. She said that she was so grateful and happy that Popoki came to Otsuci – cho to visit his friends. She also drew Popoki after she wrote her message. She asked me what Popoki looked like.

C-san : Does he have eye brows?

Me: (laugh) no

C-san: Does he have a belly button?

Me: I don't think so





**Torii**

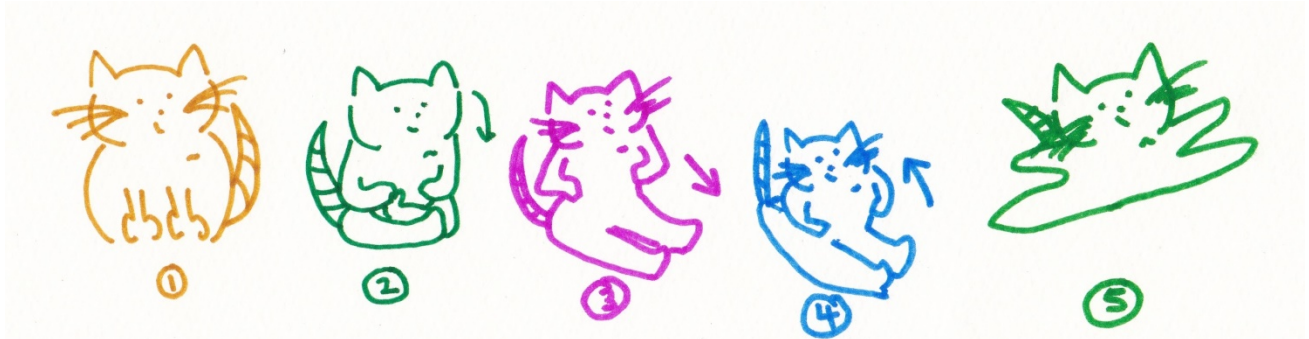
S-kun is the first participant who drew. He drew a Torii and also the portable shrine. He was 6 years old, but he had a very nice drawing. He was also very sweet. He didn't complain even though there was time when the marker didn't work. He kept drawing and finished it.



# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

## Lesson 105

This month's theme is bottoms!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Ok, sit cross-legged and pull up first one foot and then the other. If you like, try leaning to the right and to the left for a different stretch.
3. Now, stretch your legs out in front of you and walk forward using only your bottom.
4. OK, now try walking back to where you started using only your bottom. Make sure you don't step on your tail!
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: 2017.3.16 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai Office!

### NEW LOCATION\*

1-1 4-chome, Fukadacho, Nada-ku (Werubu Rokko 2 bangai). Welb Rokko Bldg.2 6F.  
Nada Yakuzaishikai Jimusho. Just a few minutes walk from JR Rokkomichi.

2017.4.7 Popoki Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho Report Gathering 19:00~  
Kobe Student Youth Center (Kobe Gakusei Seinen senta), A few minutes  
walk from Hankyu Rokko. See the next page for details.

2017.5.13 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival with Kobe YMCA & Kobe YWCA.  
Venue: Kobe YMCA new building! 14:00~16:00 (Tentative)

2017.7.2 Popoki at Nada Challenge

ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト/Popoki Peace Project

## 大槌町活動報告会

Report meeting on Otsuchi activities

ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクトは、2005 年より身体と感性と想像力を使って平和を創造する活動をしている団体です。2011 年からは、岩手県大槌町を訪れて「友情物語」という活動を行っています。

このたびは2017 年2 月3 日から2 月5 日までの3 日間滞在させていただいた大槌町での活動報告会を行います。大槌町のことやポーポキの活動について話し合えればと思います。ご興味がありましたら、どうぞお越しいただければ幸いです。

Popoki Peace Project is an organization emphasizing use of the body, senses, and imagination in creating peace through workshops and other activities from 2005. Since 2011, we have visited Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture and done activities of Popoki Friendship Story.

Between 3 and 5 February this year we stayed at Otsuchi-cho and did activities. We will report about these activities in Otsuchi. We are looking forward to telling and talking about Otsuchi-cho and Popoki activities. If you are interested in our activities, you are welcome to join us at our report meeting on Otsuchi activities!

日時：2017 年4 月7 日（金） 19:00~21:00

場所：学生青年センター

（神戸市灘区山田町 3-1-1 tel.078-851-2760）

参加費：無料

言語：日本語/英語（通訳あり）

主催：ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト

(お問い合わせ・お申込み/ Information and Reservation [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com))

会場地図 MAP





# 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](http://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](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](mailto: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](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





## What Popoki means to me

Bashirnyan

I was strolling through a park the other day and noticed a group of children playing and enjoying themselves. It was a diverse group of children from different countries. Actually, there were separate groups. One group, comprised of older children, was having a baseball game. They were having a great time and not concerned about whining of others. I watched them for a while and then went on to see what the second group was doing. The second group was nature-lover and artistic type. They went around naming various flowers, trees and butterflies, while some brought out their drawing materials and started drawing the clouds in the sky and the mountain behind them. They asked each other where all those clouds came from? Nobody could answer. So, they asked the older boys about that but none of them knew, either. Then I walked up to the third group, comprised of little kids, and saw that they were reading books. They had several Dr. Seuss books such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Hop on Pop*, etc. I asked them why everyone was doing different things. One little girl told me that their teacher told them to go to the park and do what they enjoy doing most. She said, "I'm a girl, so I don't want to play sports. Also, I'm scared of bugs. So, I'm not with the nature group. But, with my reading I can travel the whole world just sitting here at the park." The older boys watched over us. Later we all got together and discussed what our day was like. One of the older boys said he learned a new style of batting. One from the nature group told us that he felt the beauty and tranquility of nature in their pristine state. As for the little girls' group, they enjoyed reading books. "I think people should follow their given abilities and be happy with them. Maybe I will be a writer someday" the little girl said. "As you can see we are very diverse in terms of our differences but we get along" she added. She argued, "If we can live together regardless of our differences, the world will be a beautiful place; don't you agree?" I nodded my head, looked around and wished someone was there to help me answer, and then said "I have to admit that you have a good point, and I totally agree with you. Thank you for enlightening me!"

While I was nodding my head, my eyes were looking for Popoki. I was thinking at that moment if Popoki were there he would be happy to participate in the conversation. I learned from those children the meaning of peace again, which I learned from Popoki before: **living in harmony regardless of our differences: gender, race, caste, nationality, identity and so on.** I remember from one of Popoki Peace Books where Popoki asks the question: Can someone's peace be the same as others? It is a very difficult question, but perhaps important to seek the answer for peace makers in today's world. Perhaps, Popoki helps us to find the hint.



## 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](mailto: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!**

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