



Newsletter No.140
2017.4.24

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

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



The cherry blossoms in Kobe are beautiful and Popoki has enjoyed them!
Now he is listening to the baby birds learning to chirp and waiting to greet
his azalea friends. Do you have new and old friends to greet in this season?
We hope you are enjoying yourself!

Popoki's Hot News!

Coming soon*

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 14 for more information



Nada Challenge 2017

This year, Nada Challenge will be on
2 July!

Please join us for fun and learning at Togakawa Park!

Popoki will have a booth and exhibit!

You are welcome to come and help, too.

<http://nadachallenge.wixsite.com/nadachallenge>



Piece of Peace

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

"I used to like "ambiguity" like gray and light colors, but now I prefer to
"make things clear" like deep red and dark orange.
I think my peace has changed."



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 Friendship Story Report

Putrinyan

* Popoki and his friends visited Otsuchi-cho in February. Each of his friends wrote a report. You can see them in the February and March editions of Popoki News. This is the last one, by Putrinyan.

My Otsuchi Story

Day 1

We arrived at Otsuchi by morning, and we were greeted by Motomochi-san who was very friendly. We were invited to her office and enjoyed a simple breakfast with wakame and miso. Not long after, Ito-san came and invited us to watch a short movie she had made. I felt so miserable when the film showed how ravaged Otsuchi was when the disaster hit. After that, Ito-san drove us to go around and take a closer look at the process of recovery. We also visited Ronyan's old friend who is still working in a temporary shopping center where she runs a small cafe and pastry shop. I especially enjoyed the homemade chiffon cake, it was so soft and the sweetness was just perfect. Ronyan said that I was lucky to be able to come and witnessed the temporary stores because next year they will be demolished.



When we got back to Motomochi-san's office, we were greeted by the women from shake Hand Community. We were invited to join their activity to decorate the stuffed salmon doll. This was fun as a stress relieving activity. I cut, pasted and sewed on the decorations, mingling with fellow members.

My shake shows how I love cake and parties because they are happy moments.

In the afternoon we headed to Mast for the preparation of the exhibition. After determining the place and taking some equipment, we headed to our lodging located in the hills.

Day 2

We left the lodge early and began to lay out the Popoki's friendship story cloth. The four little Nyans worked together to decorate the displays to make them as interesting as possible. I noticed that since we started to decorate, the passers by started glancing at what we were doing.

Initially it was rather difficult to persuade people to come closer and share stories with Popoki. I was very grateful to Yakonyan because she helped me a lot to interact with visitors. I was also very impressed with the people there, especially the small children who did not hesitate to draw and write messages on the cloth.



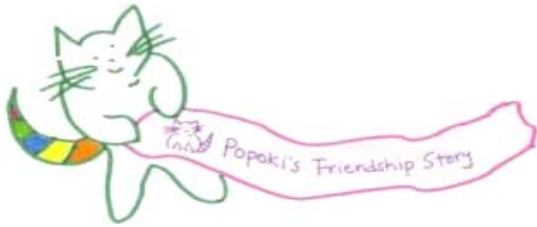
It was not only Popoki that day, there was also a community event. One of the shows was music ensemble performed by the seniors. They played music so beautifully.



Day 3

On the second day of the exhibition, more visitors came. There were some visitors from Kobe University. Some of Popoki's friends from yesterday came again today and brought a surprise, the photographs of our activities in Otsuchi. Some were taken candidly, if you saw one you'll definitely know. You will see how happy we were with all the kindness we accepted from the residents of Otsuchi. Thanks to Popoki and Otsuchi, I learnt a lot about life. Even if you have had a tough life before, it does not mean you are not able to live a happy life thereafter.





Popoki's Interview

Interviewer: Reiza – nyan

Interviewee: Participants of Otsuchi-cho exhibition

Location: MAST, Otsuchi-cho

* This interview is a description of some of the drawings and artists from our trip to Otsuchi-cho.

In two days of exhibition in MAST department store, many people have showed their willingness to participate in our program. The participants were varied in their age, jobs, and background, and their contribution to our program is very much appreciated. As the Popoki delegation team to this event included three Indonesian students whose ability in speaking Japanese is very low, it was quite hard at the beginning to ask people in Japanese to participate in this event. Even so, we could say at the end that this program was successfully done. While participants drew or wrote messages, the Popoki delegates interviewed them to know more about their stories, experiences, reasons to draw some pictures, and many types of conversations.



The majority of participants who drew on our Popoki cloths were children with an age range between 5 to 10 years old. Their capability, inspirations, and creativity to draw are magnificent. The first participant was a little boy who drew a detailed Torii and portable shrine, and the picture was lovely.



There was also a little girl who drew together with her little sister, however, this little sister just sat and held the marker without drawing or writing anything. Even though her sister and her family were encouraging her to draw, but she was persistent to be silent.



There were also several pictures that were drawn together with their family members. For example, this picture was drawn by a mother and daughter. The daughter's picture explains the toilet, and dogs. Other picture of two palm trees was drawn by a couple that also had been volunteers in Otsuchi-cho disaster and now live near Otsuchi-cho.





The Otsuchi-cho town mayor also participated and wrote a message on Popoki's cloth. He expressed appreciation and gratitude for what we did for Otsuchi-cho people.



Though it is unusual, there were several teenagers that also participated to draw on our cloths. They drew their favorite things, and some of them told us they had experienced the tsunami and earthquake disaster in 2011.

Report meeting on Otsuchi activities

Yakonyan

A report meeting on Otsuchi activities 2017 was held at Kobe Student Youth Center on April 7th, 2017.

At first, Ronyan greeted everyone with an explanation of “The Popoki Friendship Story”. Also, Mochinyan in Otsuchi-cho gave us a message on the Internet. After that, we watched the video about tsunami disaster occurred in Otsuchi-cho. Next, Satonyan talked about disaster. When she asked us about our experiences of disaster, we could listen to stories such as a flood in Czech and earthquake in Indonesia. Then, Siwinyan, Putrinyan, Reizanyan and Yakonyan, who visited Otsuchi-cho for the first time this year with the Popoki Friendship Story, spoke about how they felt and what they experienced in activities in Otsuchi. Moreover, Kiyonyan, who joined last year’s activities in Otsuchi, talked about the Popoki Peace Project.



For the latter half, 15 participants made two groups and discussed about what it would mean to experience a disaster in our hometowns. After that, 2 persons representing each team and shared what the group had talked about during the discussion time. Finally, Ronyan spoke about disaster and the Popoki Peace Project.



Popoki just sits quietly next to everyone.

When you feel lonely or isolated, it is nice

To have someone sitting quietly beside you.

That is where Popoki activities begin.

I felt that the Popoki Peace Project is essential because it continues to practice standing by someone quietly and sincerely.

Joining the Otsuchi activities this time, I realized that so many people support the Popoki activities. I am grateful to everyone for supporting us.

Also, with the help of Hazunyan (as an interpreter) and “Senpai-nayns” (former participants in Otsuchi activities) Kiyonyan, Morinyan, Suzankanyan and Aripannyan, we were able to have a successful meeting. Thank you very much.

May the Popoki activities continue for a long long time!





Popoki Friendship Story in Josai High School Newspaper!

Reporters: (all second year students)
Daichi Takata (Taka-nyan)
Hiroumi Nakamura (Naka-nyan)
Kouta Nagasawa (Naga-nyan)

**Ronyan was interviewed by students from the Josai H.S. Newspaper Club. They did a great job and we have reproduced their article here. Thank you!*

We can express thoughts with pictures which we cannot do with words
Supporting hearts - The importance of continuing to support
Popoki's circle of friends spreads

Six years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. I will report on an activity which supports people who suffered from the earthquake through drawing. I asked Ronni Alexander, a professor at the Kobe University Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), about the "Popoki Peace Project" that she began, and the "Popoki Friendship Story" activities which began in 2011 after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

“The Popoki Peace Project” greets its 11th year this year. Ronni drew pictures along with simple questions about peace through the eyes of Popoki, the cat she kept for 15 years. That’s how it all started in 2006. Now, various people from primary schoolchildren to people in their seventies are involved with Popoki irrespective of nationality, occupation or age. Most people encountered the activity of Popoki by chance and are people who became members. They hold events to think about peace from various angles.

“The Popoki Friendship Story” project in which Popoki’s members go around to places including the 2011 disaster area and interact using drawing by participants and the members, is one of the projects of Popoki which began with the Great East Japan Earthquake. The content of the activities is simple: drawing pictures freely on a long 45cm x 5m cloth. The activity’s aim is to share “stories” or each person’s experience, by “drawing”, and to cultivate their friendship with each other.

Why was drawing chosen as a means? Ronni said, “Sometimes it is hard to express the sensation of having experienced something sad or difficult in words, but it can be possible through drawing.” A high school girl who Ronni met in Sendai-city, Miyagi Prefecture, drew a picture of 4 cats, and told her, “My cats were taken away by the tsunami and are already gone.” It seems that the girl was glad that she will be able to meet her cats again when the cloth is displayed. In addition, people of all ages come to the events. Some people wrote on things like, “the tsunami is stupid, the earthquake is stupid”, and people who lost their homes or rebuilt them expressed their feelings or wishes, etc. truthfully on the cloths. More than 40 pieces of cloth have been gathered so far, and exhibitions are held in different places.

This activity has continued for the six years since the Great East Japan Earthquake and is going on. Ronni says it is important not to stop, but to continue. “We don’t have a manual, but rely on our “philosophy” and the needs at the moment for our Popoki Friendship Story activities. Because the trauma of the earthquake disaster is different for each individual, it is important to continue supporting each person, one by one. The members of Popoki Peace Project visit the stricken area and continue interchanging with friends they made there. Recently, they were told by the people in the stricken area that, “We are glad to see you and that you have continued to come for six years”.

On the other hand, there is the problem that securing of funds to continue the activity is difficult. The resources for the activities of Popoki Peace Project are the proceeds from the sale of books and original T-shirts, and grants from Kobe University. But it seems to be difficult for groups such as Popoki Peace project that engage in emotional support activities to get a grant. It is hard for people to understand why they use drawing or why they are still continuing after six years. Ronni said to us, “I want people outside of the disaster area to understand the importance of having a place where you can just be yourself and the importance of continuing this support work.”

How should Josai high school students from the generation that did not experience the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake tackle an earthquake disaster and disaster prevention? "It is natural not knowing about the earthquake disaster, and high school students and people with experience have different consciousness towards disaster prevention. First you should protect your own life. To live is important. After that, if possible, I want you to behave in a way so that people will thank you," Ronni said.

In Japan, with many natural disasters, various groups go around the stricken areas and take care of the minds and bodies of the people who have suffered. The focus of this report, Popoki Friendship Story, is one such activity. Isn't it important to think about what kinds of things we can do as Josai high school students? (Hiroumi Nakamura, 2nd year).

(Josai Shimbun 2017.3.23).

城西新聞 (Josai students' newspaper) 2017年 3月23日 (木) 386号 (3)

ポポキ友情物語 言葉にできない思い 絵で表現 心の支援

東日本大震災から6年が過ぎた。被災地では震災を語り継ぐ活動が盛んに行われている。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。

寄り添い続ける大切さ

被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。

広がるポポキの輪

被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。被災地の人々には、被災した経験や思いを言葉で表現し、伝えることが大切だ。

取材を受けるロニーさん

（2年 中村太徳、高田大徳、長澤晃広）

「ポポキ友情物語」活動の様子と絵が収められた本

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

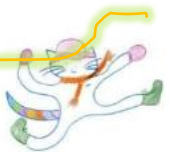
Lesson 107

This month's theme is stretching your legs!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, sit down. Bend your legs, putting the soles of your feet together. You can just stretch like that, or for a challenge, try bending forward.
3. Next, change to a squat! Hold it while you count from one to ten.
4. Finally, straighten your legs and drop your head to your feet. Your tail should be straight up.
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: 2017.5.13 16:30~ After the Film Festival at Kobe YMCA

2017.5.13 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival with Kobe YMCA & Kobe YWCA.

Venue: Kobe YMCA new building! 14:00~16:00 See page 14 for details!

5.28 Popoki at Kio University!

7.2 Popoki at Nada Challenge!

✧ This year we will have a booth and exhibition!

✧ Our special guest from Otsuchi-cho will be Yoko Kawarahata san! She will do some SHAKE HAND activities, too.

7.15 Popoki at Kodomo no Sato

8.6 Hiroshima Day Skye (tentative)

From Popoki's friends:

New booklet* "Voices of evacuees from 11 March: Collected by the affected people themselves" ("3.11 hinansha no koe~tojisha jishin ga a-kaibu"). Thanks & Dream, 2017.3.11. Information: sandori2014@gmail.com

Gathering for Peace with Popoki ～Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival No.7～ “Thinking about Peace in the Spring (tentative title)”

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.

Please bring
your own
drinking cup!

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!!

This year too we will have a film and talk session.
 Watch films, talk about them, drink tea, eat snacks,
 and come and go as you please.



WHEN: 2017.5.13 14:00 – 16:00

WHERE: Kobe YMCA Tour the new building, too!

Kobe YMCA International Community Center

2-7-11 Kano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe Tel. 078-241-7204

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

SPONSORS: Popoki Peace Project, Kobe YMCA International Committee, Kobe YWCA

THEME: In Japan it is customary to think about peace in summer, but let's do it in spring, too!

Tentative PROGRAM*

* Details will be revealed on the day of the festival!

14:00 Greetings
 14:05 “Barefoot Gen's Message” (32 min.)
 14:40 Break & discussion
 15:00 Short videos about resisting nuclear weapons and power
 15:20 Discussion, sharing and reflections
 16:00 Ending

Information and Reservations

Popoki Peace Project

ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

or

神戸YMCA International Community Center

(Contact person: Ms. Nakamichi)

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

e-mail houshi@kobeymca.org



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

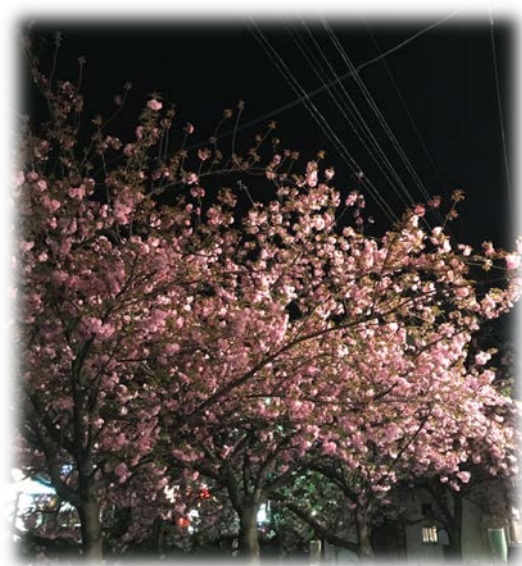
Aripannyan

Last month, children who I had been in charge of graduated from our school. It was the first time for me since I became a teacher. I was very happy. On the other hand, I was a little nervous. I am satisfied that I have taught them many things, but more things remained that I have yet to teach them.

Our school is different from most elementary schools. All of the children in our school live in a children's home. The home is for children who cannot live with their parents. Almost all the children in our school live in the home because of physical or psychological violence. They are usually cheerful. They play a lot, and they also eat a lot. They look the same as other children in your town. However, one boy is a little fat because of an unbalanced diet. One girl cannot study well because she hadn't gone to school before. Their life with their parents has affected their future life in a lot of respects.

Almost all the children want to go back to their home even though their parents neglect them. Sometimes they feel ups and downs when they suspect they can go back their home in the future. For the two years I have been teaching at this school, I have tried to help them to relax and feel "We are happy to be at this school", but it is hard for them. It seems to me that nothing could replace their home, and nobody could replace their parents. It is also difficult to help the children become strong and empowered to change their lives. It is even hard just to teach them only mathematics. I wonder if I was able to give something to the children who graduated.

I don't know yet what to do for the children, but a new season has already started. First of all we have to face the immediate problem. Popoki, I try to work hard for the peace of the children.



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>



From within Japan, please use our Postal account or Postal bank account:

Account Name ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト神戸

Postal Account number: 00920-4-28035

Postal Bank (Yuucho Ginko) account number: Branch No.:099; Branch name: 009 店、special account(当座) 0280350

THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!