



It's almost June! The season for enjoying being barefoot has arrived. Do you like to walk barefoot? Have fun, but please be careful not to hurt your feet!

## Popoki's Hot News!



### COMING SOON!

Sunday, 1 July, is Nada Challenge!

Every year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Kobe University students and Nada-ku residents have worked together to hold this festival. Popoki will have a booth with sales and games, and a Popoki Friendship Story Exhibit. Chiffon-san from Otsuchi-cho will join us, too!



### Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Ho-nyan, sent the following piece of peace:

" Why it is important to work for peace now

It had begun to slip my mind, but in the last few years, the subject of preserving peace has been an extremely important topic in the world of academia. Let's think back. These years have seen the establishment of the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets (2013), the 2014 Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology (2014) (repeal of controls on weapons exports;

cabinet approval of the right to collective self-defense), the coming into force of the security related laws (2015), and the establishment of the system for promoting research on security technology (2016). The system for promoting research on security technology is a fund set up by the Defense Ministry to promote military research. In 2016, the budget was set at 300 million yen, jumping to 600 million yen in 2017 and to 10.1 billion yen in 2018. In 2017, fearing the involvement of academia in military research, the Board of Governors of the Science Council of Japan issued a declaration expressing their critical view of 'collaboration between the military and academia'. Please think back some more. The Preamble to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women says that peace cannot be achieved without equality between men and women. Recently, I have been reading this convention over and over again."

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: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !

## Report meeting on Otsuchi activities

Mori nyan

We had a Report meeting on Otsuchi-cho activities on April 21 at Kobe Youth Center. The meeting was about the Otsuchi activities done between 9 to 12 February. Please check Popoki News No. 151 and 152, too.

I joined Popoki Friendship Story activities in Otsuchi in 2015. So, I was looking forward to finding about how the town has changed, how the people in Otsuchi are doing, and what the members of this tour learned through the activities.

One surprising piece of news was that the station is being reconstructed due to the holding of the Rugby World Cup in 2019. However, the government helped only the reconstruction. The management of the station or rail way will be the responsibility of the town. I hope that the World Cup will be a good opportunity for not only the residents but also the players and supporters to know and visit Tohoku area. The most significant issue was that government support for the temporary housing will end. It is very hard for residents who cannot rebuild by themselves. Even for those who have rebuilt, many of them have had to take loans, so it is difficult for them to re-create their lifestyle, too.

In the *kamishibai* story workshop, the international students from Indonesia reported that they could exchange similar experiences of disaster such as tsunami and earthquake with people from Otsuchi-cho. Indonesia also has many disasters like Japan. I felt that it is meaningful to connect with various people for Popoki Friendship Project. The member reported that when they were reading stories at the exhibit, high school students stopped and look the story. The members were surprised and were happy that they joined. I found that using the *kamishibai* story has potential as a way to communicate with various people. Popoki already does this.

I also learned that the scenery of the town is undergoing massive changes. It is better that the construction happens late than never. On the other hand, I wonder if the residents can accept the changes. We, Popoki Peace Project, will stand with them. There is still work for Popoki to do!

After the report meeting, one of participants said that it was a good chance to learn the details of individual situations in the disaster area. There is very little in the ordinary news. To know about the details of individual situations, the power of citizen media is important. A lot of activities by citizens like Popoki are needed. Now, 7 years have passed since the Tohoku disaster in 2011. The information about the disaster area and reconstruction has decreased. I thought it is increasingly important to make time and disseminate information through this kind of report meetings.

Popoki Friendship Story has continued activities for seven years, always seeking for how to be supportive. The residents in Otsuchi continue to be in a complex situation, too. Otsuchi is definitely far away from Kobe! But the fact that when we go, we do not want to leave and always want to visit again is sure to be due to the warmth of Otsuchi people who can make us forget the cold in Otsuchi winter.



Reporting some good news!

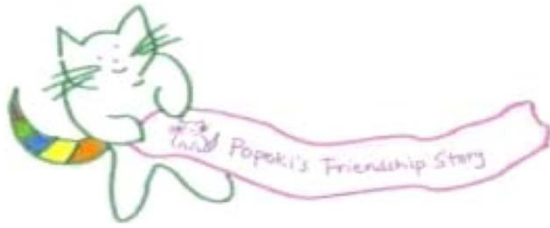
Satonyan

At all of our activities, Popoki takes care that the members and participants do not get hurt, and that everyone is safe. But just in case there is an accident, we always get Volunteer Insurance from Hyogo Voluntary Plaza.

Last year, when I went to get the insurance I saw they were advertising small grants for voluntary work. Popoki's activities fit their conditions, so I applied.

In order to get the grant, I worked hard to make a summary of Popoki's activities and filled out lots of forms. And on April 25, 2018 I got a notice that we had been given the grant! It made me happy. If they do it this year, maybe I'll try again.





## \*Popoki's Interview\*

Hayashinyan

Interviewee: Kaori Hayashi (Kaonyan)

At the “Drawing and Picture Books and Medical Care and Disaster Pot Luck Party”

Date: 2018/03/17 Venue: Nada Kumin Hall

Following the last issue, we interviewed one of the five speakers at the “Pot Luck Party” event on 17 March 2018. Kaori Hayashi is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and a member of the Kansai Network for the Rights of the Child. Surrounded by adults, her talk was short. But she suggested in what kind of environment the rights of the child can work.



### Interview

Q1: Please tell us about your speech at the “Pot Luck” about feeling safe in everyday life at school.

Kaonyan: My class teacher does not show any emotion. He shows only anger. I cannot understand him in spite being with him a lot. It makes us, the students, feel somehow uncomfortable. While he seems to have other emotions than anger, he has never shown them to us. I want him to show us real feelings other than anger.

Q2 : What was most impressive for you at the “Pot Luck” ?

Kaonyan: It was the (Kimie Teshigawara's) session of drawing “feeling safe” using pastels. I drew a scene where I was climbing a tree. I cannot say if climbing a tree is safe or not. But I calm down while I climbing a tree. Do you think it's my monkey genes that make me feel that way?

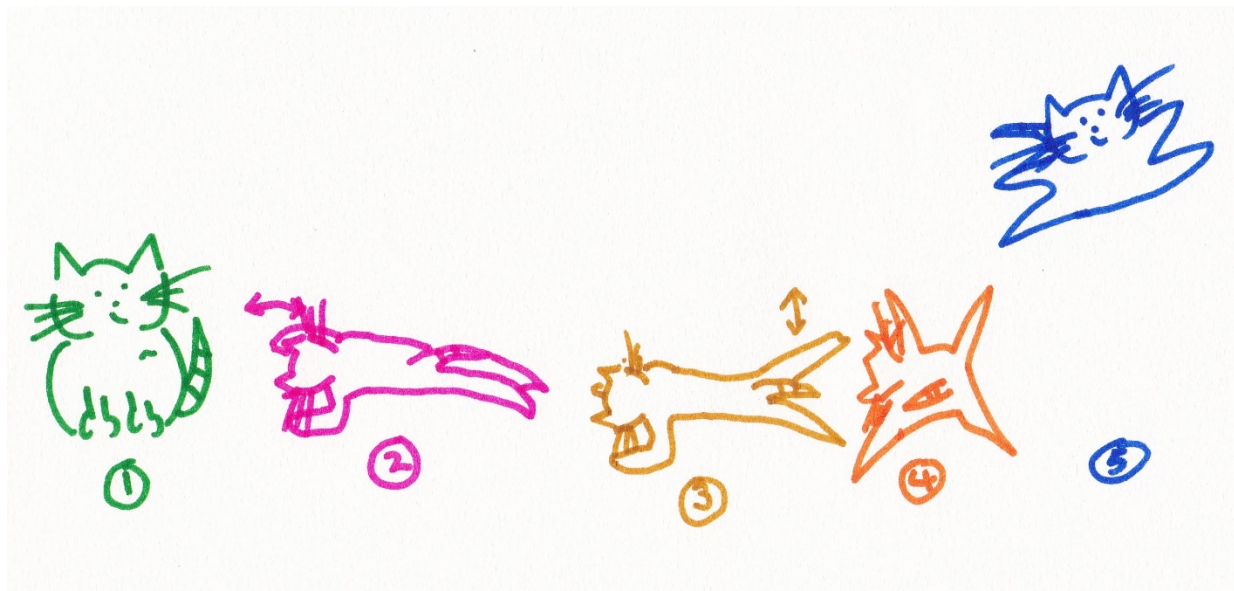




# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

## Lesson 120

This month's theme is abs!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now lie down facing the floor and your legs and tail extended behind you. Bend your arms and with your elbows under your shoulders, raise your body. OK! Now, slowly move one arm forward, and back while you stay parallel with the floor.
3. Next, keep the same position but this time raise each of your legs in turn!
4. That was exhausting! Have a rest with your arms and legs stretched to the sides!
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: 2018.5.30 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai (Rokkomichi)**

**6.2 Kio University "Peace and Health Workshop" with Popoki**

**7.1 Popoki @ Nada Challenge!!!**

**7.14 Popoki @ kodomono no sato!**

**8.6 08:00 ~ Popoki's Hiroshima Day Skype**

**8.6 P.M. Popoki Peace workshop at the Seminar on Education for International Understanding and for Development 2018**

**10/20 Popoki Peace and Health WS @ Hyogo University of Health Sciences**

**From Popoki's friends:**

**New children's book: text: Seiko Chujo; translation: Ronni Alexander, *The Cans of Forest* (English/Japanese version), Epic, 2017.**

## Popoki in Print \* Back issues of Popoki News:



[http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)

"Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival," Kobe YMCA News No.652, July/August 2017, p.3

- 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/>



## What Popoki means to Me

Ishino-nyan

University is wonderful place. As an undergraduate, at the time of study abroad, and at graduate school, I had lots of wonderful friends and we could think together. Especially at GSICS in Kobe University, meeting with people with various values made a very luxurious learning experience for me. Some people are studying the development of education for children in developing countries with extremely pure minds, some speak coolly about the territorial issues of Northeast Asia but have hot hearts; everyone is interested in different things. However, when talking about a problem, it is natural that there are various opinions. People share their attitudes in classes or when talking on the street. I thought how wonderful a student life is.

Popoki was one of such friends. After completing my 2 year graduate student life, I submitted my master's thesis and then took part in a trip to Otsuchi Town. As I visited the town of the disaster area and saw and listened to things, it seemed to be heavy on my body and mind. I could not become positive, I could not speak comfortable words, I could not be honest. However, no matter how cold my heart is, warm atmosphere was flowing where Popoki was. Everyone around Popoki will recognize everyone there. I felt it was a safe place. Whatever the problem, take care and keep thinking together and always take a position of accepting others. In society such things may not always be given priority. But I think that it would be nice if warm air could spread from people around Popoki little by little.



← On Kobe University graduation day, in front of the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies

'Oshacchi,' a new facility for recovery activities in Otsuchi-cho. The center of the park in the foreground is at the height of the ground before it was raised for post-tsunami construction →





## 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!**

Popoki Peace Project [popokipeace-at-gmail.com](mailto:popokipeace-at-gmail.com)

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU

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POPOKI!