



August! Ronyan and Popoki love the sunshine and all the fun of summer! But this year the weather has been strange everywhere, and that's not fun at all! When it's safe, Popoki loves to swim. What do you love to do in the summer?

## Popoki's Hot News!



New book!

Ronni Alexander (2022.2.22). *Popoki's Mask Gallery: Searching for Everyday Anshin through Art during the Covid 19 Pandemic*. Kobe University Press.



Nada Challenge!

Nada Challenge is back! See page 13 for details.



Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Luisanyan, sent the following piece of peace on 6th of August, Hiroshima Day.

"May all the suffering of this day be healed soon and may the light of those who have passed away illuminate the hope of better times for those who remember them."



What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !

# Popoki's Video Gallery

Please have a look at Popoki's videos!

Popoki's Mask Gallery – Living the Covid-19 Pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJT1ZjVUsm8&t=3s>

Popoki's House

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8OCzg64oH8>

Let's make a Peace Pakupaku with the cat, Popoki

<https://youtu.be/FoT4pCWWRnQ>

Popoki's Peace Map

<https://youtu.be/4t4PFV-dRBg>

Ronni Alexander's Final Lecture at Kobe University (not Popoki, but...)

'Reflecting on the thirty years since Big Dreams and Small Islands, and looking toward tomorrow'

<https://youtu.be/trbxJSP7-CY>

Peace Studies Association of Japan Kansai Area Study Group "Views on the Ukraine War" "Aspects we are not seeing, and our feelings of gloom"

Speakers: Anzai Ikuro, Ronni Alexander; Questions: Okumoto Kyoko, Endo Akari

<https://www.psj.org/chiku-kansai/> Go to YouTube from this link (in Japanese only)



Check out  
ESPN mini-  
series 'Title  
IX', too!  
Ronyan is in  
Part 2!



## Talking about peace.

Satonyan

On Friday morning, August 5, Popoki went to "Children's Living" in Aspark again with Ronyan, Honyan, and Satonyan.

First question! "Do you know what day is August 6," Ronyan asked. "Someone's birthday?" Everyone says, "I don't know." Ronyan gives a hint. "It was more than 70 years ago." "Were you all born?" "Were your mothers and fathers born?" "Then what about your grandparents?" They all say they think their grandparents would have been born. And it was only when Ronyan mentioned that something very serious happened around that time that one child said, "the atomic bomb!" "Where do you think it fell?" "Hiroshima?" And three days after that? A boy answered in a slightly louder voice, "Nagasaki."



The atomic bombs were dropped and the war ended in August, so the summer is filled with stories about war and peace. Popoki thinks about peace all the time, not just in the summer, but today, instead of the big peace of atomic bombs and war, but today, let's think together about peace closer to us.

The next program was reading "Popoki's House," a story written by Ronyan. Everyone thought hard about who visited Popoki. Who brought what? Which item was left behind by whom? We had fun thinking together. Then I asked, "Is there anyone you don't want to come?" "No," they said. "Anyone can come." Then I asked, "What if we forced someone to come who didn't want to?" "If s/he doesn't want to come, s/he doesn't have to," they said. I continued, "But then s/he might be left all alone." "Probably s/he has other friends, or else we can keep him/her company." These children at "Children Living" are very flexible and kind.

Finally, we drew pictures of places or things that make us feel safe (*anshin*) and peace. Everyone worked very hard to draw many things. Not only the things they like, but also nature, peace where they can draw, peace where they can eat food, peace where they can touch animals, peace where they can talk with friends, peace where they can play sports, peace where they can go to school and study. They thought about many kinds of peace.



Thanks everyone! I wonder if Popoki can come back and visit again?

Sure!!! Everyone agreed.



This year, August 9<sup>th</sup> marked 77 years since the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. How many times in these 77 years have people appealed for “No more Nagasaki”? Why are there still nuclear weapons?

This year, Sasanyan, Yaranyan and Yakonyan took on the task of planning for the Summer Peace Event to think about nuclear. First, they chose two videos: “Popoki’s Peace Machine: Hiroshima/Nagasaki” (Iwanami Shoten Publishers) and “Every Nuclear Bomb Explosion in History” (Business Insider). Our collaborators, Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace (RHIP) suggested a third video, “Anointed” (by Dan Lin and Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner), and it was added to the program. Then, after great discussion and thinking, they created a presentation as an introduction. (You can see the entire presentation beginning on page 7). The presentation covered background of the bombing and different perspectives on the use of the atomic bomb. At the end, they gave suggested questions for discussion which including “Why was the bomb dropped,” “Why was it dropped on a place with a large civilian population,” and “What sort of threat of nuclear war is there today?” This program proposal was shared with RHIP and we made some adjustments. We also had new participation from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, as well as having participation from Guam this year, too.

The event began at 8am JST, and we had 26 participants from the United States, Guam, Japan, and Mexico. We were guided by Yaranyan, and began with greetings from Jo on behalf of RHIP and Ronyan on behalf of Popoki Peace Project. Then we had a moment of silence for the victims of the atomic bombs. This was followed by the presentation, and then the videos. Because we were online, people in places around the world were able to watch together. Then we split into 5 breakout rooms, to deepen our understanding. At the end, we returned to one room and shared our discussions.

We only had 30 minutes for the group discussions, and there was a wide range of topics. For example, discussion about nuclear weapons included not only the atomic bomb and nuclear testing, but also uranium production, disposal of nuclear waste, and the development of new nuclear weapons by the U.S. in its spite of being a party to the NPT. Some groups discussed the moral issues involved, questioning whether there is a way to justify the inhuman killing that happens in war. Others discussed what we can do to stop war and nuclear weapons, including the current war in Ukraine, and the threat of not only the use of nuclear weapons by Russia but also the destruction of nuclear power plants in Ukraine. What can we do to stop the current nuclear threat was also discussed. There was no answer, but we agreed that everyone must think, question everything put out as ‘truth,’ and take action.

At the end, Dr. Bevaqua gave the perspective from Guam. Guam is U.S. territory, and a very important place in the U.S. East Asian strategy. Thirty percent of the small island is taken over with U.S. military facilities. Now, new facilities are being built to accommodate Marines being removed to Guam from Okinawa. The base itself is a problem, but it is being built on the site of an ancient Chamoru village and this is a serious problem. In relation to the videos, he told us that Guam was also affected by the nuclear testing. He also talked about militarization. An imperial power like the United States requires places that are hidden from sight and no one knows anything about. Even if all of the U.S. bases in Asia have to be closed because of local opposition, there is still Guam. Usually we might not think about Guam, but I think it is important for us to recognize the role of places like Guam in nuclear strategy.

Ronyan ended the program, but actually Yaranyan had prepared some remarks. She wanted to say that it is important for people with more lifetime experience to keep reminding younger people to think about these important issues.

We were able to have a good program this year, too. Thank you to everyone!





1

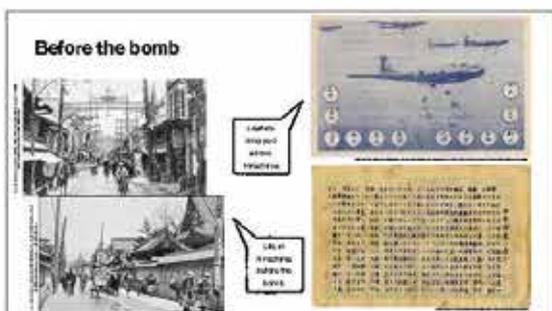
EN:

Hello everyone, thank you so much for being here.

Continuing with today's theme, this presentation will touch on certain things that we'd like you to keep at the back of your mind as we continue with today's program.

Please observe the number at the bottom of the slide. This is the number of hibakusha as of 2021, they update it each year, so the number is probably higher than this today. This number is a reminder that to this day, there are people suffering with the events of the bombings and that fewer and fewer people are around to remind us of the lived experiences of this horrific event.

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 328,929 people [as of August 8, 2021] (Number of lists: 121 (including one list that says "Many names are unknown")  
 August 8, 2021 Additional offerings: 4,800.



2

EN:

Hiroshima had a population of around 345,000 people and was a key transportation hub. As you can see from the images, it was a bustling city. But that wasn't all it was. It was a political and economic centre, with numerous higher learning institutions and became one of Japan's most prominent military cities. The war changed that. Civilian life became difficult and many citizens were mobilised to battlefields and munitions factories. By July 1945, the war in Europe had finished but the war in the Pacific was still raging on and the newly created bombs initially intended for use in Nazi Germany had a new target: Japan. Particularly, Hiroshima, Kokura, Yokohama, Kyoto and Nagasaki. It is July 26th 1945, and the Potsdam declaration was broadcast giving Japan an ultimatum of "prompt and utter destruction" if it refused to surrender. Following, the LeMay leaflets were dropped by American pilots warning Japanese citizens of future air-raids and to evacuate the cities. These leaflets made no mention of an atomic bomb and were largely ignored as it was illegal to engage with "foreign propaganda" in Japan.

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 Picture 1: A pre-war photograph of Hiroshima's vibrant downtown shopping district near the centre of town, facing east. Only rubble and a few utility poles remained after the nuclear explosion and resultant fires.

Picture 2: Looking northeast along Teramachi, the Street of Temples, in pre-war Hiroshima. This district was completely ruined.



3

EN:

On the 6th of August 1945 at 8:15 AM American pilots on Enola Gay dropped "Little boy". After falling for 43 seconds the bomb detonated about 550 meters above the city.

On the ground, people reported seeing a pika (ピカ) — a bright flash of light— followed by a don (ドン) — a loud booming sound. Almost half of the people within 1.2 kilometres of the hypocenter died that day, and almost all buildings within 2 kilometres were destroyed. People were vaporised, burned, blown away, or injured. It is estimated that about 140,000 people had died by the end of December 1945, when the acute radiation damage had subsided. But as we know, that isn't the final death toll...

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 Picture 1: The Enola Gay dropped the "Little Boy" atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Paul Tibbets (centre in photograph) can be seen with six of the aircraft's crew.

Picture 2: Atomic bomb mushroom clouds over Hiroshima

Picture 3: Strike order for the Hiroshima bombing as posted on 5 August 1945

Picture 4: Hiroshima, before and after the bomb

Picture 5: The pattern of the clothing worn by a survivor burned into their skin in tight-fitting areas.

**After the bomb**  
**Outsider Perspective**

- Had Japan not surrendered, there were plans for the delivery of more atomic bombs
- Reporting on the bombs true nature was censored
- Nuclear arms race & Mutually Assured Destruction
  - M.A.D. - a policy of deterrence based on the notion that a nuclear attack by one superpower would be met with an overwhelming nuclear counterattack from the other (the attacker and the defender would be annihilated)



EN:  
As the Japanese dealt with the effects of the atomic bomb, plans for further bomb deliveries were ongoing. Thankfully, Japan surrendered and the west celebrated.

When it came to reporting about the bombings, American forces, seized photographic evidence of the destruction and the government lied about the after effects. The US government made all the videos and information about the bombings top secret and silenced the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Now with a monopoly on the knowledge of and raw materials for nuclear weaponry, we observe the US grappling with its show of strength vs its ideas of morality. Leading to the cold war, nuclear weapon supremacy and the theory of mutually assured destruction.

Picture 1: US servicemen in the sick bay of the S.S. Casablanca smile and point to a newspaper on August 15, 1945 with the headline "JAPS QUIT" after the Japanese surrender in World War 2

Picture 2: Mamorandum from Groves to Marshall regarding the third bomb, with Marshall's hand-written caveat that the third bomb not be used without express presidential instruction.

**After the bomb**  
**Japanese Perspective**

09/Aug/1945 - Nagasaki Atomic atomic bomb

15/Aug/1945 - Broadcast of Imperial Japan's surrender

02/Sep/1945 - Signing of the instruments of surrender

- The hibakusha continue to suffer to this day.



EN:  
Meanwhile, in Japan, following the bombing of Hiroshima, 3 days later, on the 9th, Nagasaki is bombed. On the 15th, the emperor broadcasts their surrender, that was nearly stopped by a failed coup. Finally, on September 2nd, above the USS Missouri, the signing of the Japanese Instruments of Surrender occurs. And life in Hiroshima continued...

The city trams (Hibaku Densha) resumed operation 3 days after the atomic bomb. They aided in postwar reconstruction and still function to this day.

Still occurring are the deaths of people affected by the bomb. The bomb didn't just give them radiation poisoning, killing them slowly and painfully. It also poisoned their water and air (black rain, burning bodies). For those that survived, unaware they were living on borrowed time, would die of cancer. The pain wouldn't stop there, those that survived enough to have families, would also suffer an array for reproductive issues or birth children with crippling birth defects. This would lead to discrimination of the hibakusha by their own people, because of fear of contagion... Basically ignorance and fear.

Picture 1: Imperial rescript from Japanese Emperor Hirohito ordering Japan's capitulation and end to World War II. Written on 14 August and announced on 15 August, 1945.

Picture 2: Japanese foreign affairs minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri as General Richard K. Sutherland watches, 2 September 1945.

Picture 3: Nagasaki, before and after.



9

**As of 2022...**  
Thank you for your attention!



Popoki Peace Project & Remembrance: Non-Violence, Resolving Peace  
Bureau Peace Center | August 5, 2022

EN:

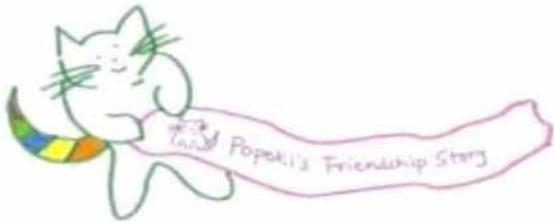
I leave you with a final message:

As of 2022, it is 100 seconds to midnight.

Fighting for the peace is crucial and the eradication of weapons of mass destruction needs to happen now so history can never repeat itself.

Thank you for your attention.

## \*Popoki's Interview\*



Yakonyan

\*We have been conducting interviews with Popoki's friends in different places and asking about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first of a 2-part series by Yakonyan about pets in the Czech Republic.

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Interviewer: Yakonyan/ Interviewee: Luciencyan

Hello. This is the latter half of the interview with Luciencyan (The former half was written in Popoki News No203 of July 2022.). Thank you very much.

Q4) What do you think about the situation of pet animals in Japan?

There were several things that surprised me in Japan when it comes to house pets. First, they seem to be much rarer here. In Czech Republic it's very common, almost every family has a dog or at least a cat, if they live in a smaller apartment. Children often also have guinea-pigs or other smaller animals as their own pets. Just walking around town, one can notice that Japanese people do not have nearly as many pets. Next, I notice a preference for different breeds! Japanese people seem to prefer smaller dogs like poodles or bichons (with the occasional Shiba, which are pretty rare in Czech Republic ☺). But cats are a bit different too - in Japan, long-hair breeds seem to be way more common. Actually, when it comes to cats, I noticed one more thing. The occasional cat one can meet on the street is usually way more shy. In Czech Republic, I'm used to a cat on the street (be it actual stray cat or just one that goes outside but belongs to a home) almost always being up for some pets or willing to take a treat. Cats in Japan seem to be usually quite wary of people they don't know!

When it comes to shelters, I have visited only one while I was in Japan, but in general I didn't find any glaring differences. It comes down more to what animals the shelter usually gets, and what animals are the hardest/easiest to find homes for (in Czech Republic, dogs of almost any breed are quite easy to re-home while cats often have to wait for a long time. In Japan it seems to be the opposite). But the structure of the shelter and its goals are pretty much the same!

Q5) What do you think about peaceful human communities connected to pet animals?

When we were talking about the connection of peaceful human society to pet well-being, I remembered quite a pressing issue that came up this year. After the invasion

of Ukraine, many people had to flee their homes, moving to Poland, Slovakia, and also Czech Republic. Many of them could not carry much of their belongings, but often they still evacuated with their pets, who they refused to part with. Our organisation was a part of the efforts to help these people and their animals wherever we could. Problems often started right at the border - European Union requires pets who enter to be vaccinated against certain diseases. However, even if the animals were vaccinated, the people often did not have the proof of vaccination with them, having fled their homes in a great hurry. At the start the situation was quite chaotic, but relatively soon there were veterinary stations at the borders immediately providing pets with vaccinations right at the borders. But even if they successfully crossed, there was of course the issue of providing for the pet. There were many charity drives during which people donated food, bedding and other necessities.

Moving with one's pet can be stressful in the best of circumstances, let alone fleeing from a war zone. However, having lost their homes and often their loved ones too, a lot of people refused to lose their pet companions as well. They were their anchors, their reminders of home, sometimes even what kept them going. I think it's important we recognize how beloved pet animals can be critical people in times like these.

I am also reminded of a Ukrainian shelter we have sometimes been partnering with even before the invasion of Ukraine. It's a large shelter with over a hundred dogs in its care. The director of the shelter refused to leave, as moving with all the animals would have been impossible, and she refused to abandon them. At the beginning, we managed to move tons of dog food to her shelter, but ever since then it became impossible to get this far into the country. She is still holding on however, communicating with us via emails, and organising sharing of resources with people where she can.



# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 172 This month's theme is getting ready to swim!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stretch your arms out to the sides. Begin with small circles, and gradually make bigger and bigger ones! When you have gotten as big as possible, then reverse and gradually make smaller and smaller ones.
3. Next, circle your arms just as if you were swimming! Start in one direction and then reverse!
4. Okay! Now you are ready for something hard! Raise your arms and circle them, starting with your left arm going forward and your right arm going backward. Did it? OK, now try going the opposite way!
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: 2022.9.26 @ 19:00 zoom\*

Everyone is welcome. We always use the same link, so send an email if you need it.

- | 8.23 Popoki Peace workshop at La Clarte puppet theater (tentative)
- | 9.1 Symposium on Multiculturalism 14:00-17:00, Portopia Hotel, Korea consulate in Kobe and GSICS, Kobe University
- | 9.15 Peace workshop @ Bikkuri Bako!
- | 9.18 13:00-16:00 Nada Challenge! Everyone welcome!
- | 10.15 Workshop on LGBTQI+ and sexuality @ Osaka YWCA
- | 10.22 Peace and Health Workshop

### Reading Suggestions from Popoki's Friends

Otsuchi-cho (July, 2019). "Ikiru Akashi - Iwateken Otsuchi-cho Higashi nihon daishinsai kirokushi" (Testimony of Living: A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture). Editorial Supervision: Otsuchi-cho Board of Education, others.

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編著・絵 ロニー・アレキサンダー  
Written, edited and illustrated by Ronni Alexander

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The Meaning of Drawing Stories

② くちゃくちゃ

All Messed Up

③ 色たち

Colors

④ いかなきや(桂木聡子)

I've Gotta Go (Katsuragi Satoko)

⑤ 2021.1.17 に想う

Thoughts on 17 January 2021

⑥ 乱れ

Confusion

⑦ プール

Pool

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Popoki's Mask Gallery — A consideration based on traditional Japanese ways of thinking (Takada Satoshi)

② 対談：アナ・アガサングロウとロニー・アレキサンダー (世界国際関係学会年次研究大会2021年)

Conversation: Anna Agathangelou and Ronni Alexander (International Studies Association Annual Conference 2021)

③ ポーポキの旅: ポーポキのマスクギャラリーができるまでの道のり (ロニー・アレキサンダー)

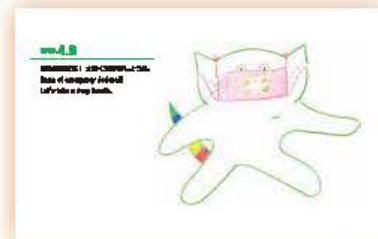
Popoki's Journey: How Popoki's mask gallery came to be (Ronni Alexander)

後書き：新たな旅

Epilogue: A New Journey

今度はあなた

Now it is Your Turn



本文より抜粋



発行：神戸大学出版会 <https://www.org.kobe-u.ac.jp/kupress/>  
神戸市灘区六甲台町2-1 神戸大学社会科学系図書館内 Tel. 078-803-7315 Fax. 078-361-7320  
発売：神戸新聞総合出版センター  
神戸市中央区東川崎町1丁目5-7 神戸情報文化ビル9F Tel. 078-362-7138 Fax. 078-361-7552

- Ø Art-stories as reflection: Learning from the Popoki Peace Project 国際協力論集 29(2) 27-51 2022-01 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81013055
- Ø The Meaning of Art in Disaster Support: Stories from the Popoki Peace Project 国際協力論集 28(2) 1-22 2021.1 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81012502
- Ø Gender, Disaster and Stories from Popoki : Learning from Women Survivors in Northeast Japan 国際協力論集 26(2) 17-37 2019.1 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81010618
- Ø Feeling Unsafe: Exploring the Impact of Nuclear Evacuation Journal of Narrative Politics 4(2) 65-87 2018.04
- Ø Drawing Disaster: Reflecting on Six Years of the Popoki Friendship Story Project 国際協力論集 25(2) 59-96 2018.01 JaLCDOI 10.24546/81010097
- Ø Thinking About Human Rights with the Popoki Peace Project Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific 8 83-106 2018
- Ø "Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival," Kobe YMCA News No.652, July/August 2017, p.3
- Ø ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange <http://www.interpeople.or.jp>
- Ø "Peace Picture Book Published – linked to disaster support in East Japan" *Kobe Shimbun* (2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana
- Ø "Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation" *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.23 p.8)
- Ø "Reproducing 'human shadows' and asserting no nukes" *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)
- Ø 'Draw inner thoughts about disaster' *Yomiuri Shimbun* 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)
- Ø "'Safe' and 'Secure' Society is from the bottom-up", *Mainichi Shimbun Interview with Ronni Alexander*, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)
- Ø R. Alexander. "Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
- Ø "Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki" *Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News*, No.66, 2012.5.12
- Ø "Hope on 60 meters of cloth" Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) *Asahi Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- Ø "Voice for Peace made into a book" Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- Ø 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* 13:2, 2011, 257-263
- Ø S. McLaren. "The Art of Healing" (Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. [kansaiscene.com](http://kansaiscene.com)
- Ø 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
- Ø 省窓 : Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- Ø "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (*YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper*)
- Ø 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) 010.3.15
- Ø FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- Ø "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/>)
- Ø 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
- Ø 'Friendship' No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- Ø 'Not for But With...' No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- Ø 'Nada' notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- Ø 'Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.' *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- Ø 'Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,' *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- Ø 'New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2*' (Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- Ø "Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published." (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- Ø 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
- Ø 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- Ø 'Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,' *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
- Ø Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese (No longer available)



## What Popoki Means to Me

Ryu-nyan

Hello, I'm Ryu-nyan.  
You are good at Japanese.

The first time I met Ronni, Popoki's mother, must have been ten years ago....  
We met at the place I work, and I must have been in my early thirties. I had probably been working there for one or two years. It was a completely different job from what I had done previously and I was enjoying the totally new experience. Then I discovered a suspicious foreigner! That was Ronni (actually I made up the suspicious part).  
After that, whenever she came we would chat about various things, and I got the impression that she was a very shy and pure person.

A couple of years after we first met, Ronni came with a surprising announcement – the publication of Popoki's first book. When I heard this, I immediately wanted a copy. My daughter had just started elementary school and I wanted to read Ronni's picture book to her.  
Soon after, Ronni brought me a copy of *Popoki, What Color is Peace?*

I have never really thought seriously about peace, but Ronni's invitation to write "What Popoki means to Me" has given me a chance to think about it.

Peace.... Doesn't that mean that all the people in the world who have weapons get rid of them, and all situations of conflict are resolved through discussion?

Peace.... Doesn't that mean that all people regardless of sex or gender, care about others?

Peace.... Doesn't that mean that the people of the world think seriously about peace and help one another? When I started to think, I discovered that the list is endless. But I also realized it is very difficult.



This is our Popoki, named "Chura-chan".  
And what Popoki means to me is encounters....

The first time we met, I told Ronni that "You are good at Japanese." She probably doesn't remember.

Thinking about it now, I realize that it was a very discourteous thing to say, and regret having said it.

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: *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 outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. Write to us at [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) and we'll figure it out!

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 [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.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 FROM POPOKI!