



Colorful flowers are blooming all around. Popoki is busy checking the fragrances. It is a hard season for people with allergies, but Popoki loves the spring.



Popoki's Hot News!

It's here! Popoki's Peace Book 3!

The third book in the Popoki's Peace Book series, *Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3* is out! You can get a copy at your local bookstore (in Japan), from the publisher Epic (<https://bookway.jp/epic/>), at the Kobe YMCA or from the Popoki Peace Project! We look forward to your orders and comments.



Pieces of Peace

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

"Every morning I walk across a railroad crossing to get to work. I always stop and look both ways at the way the railroad goes off into the distance, and take a deep breath. At these times, I experience a real feeling of peace, as I remember that even when the world feels narrow and scary, actually it's wide and beautiful."

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 has a facebook page! Please have a look!

www.facebook.com/pages/Popoki-Peace-Project/1384738958444817

Thank you for your continuing help!

Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake is getting a good reception, thanks to help from his friends. Please help to let more people know! More information about the book at: <http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari.html>

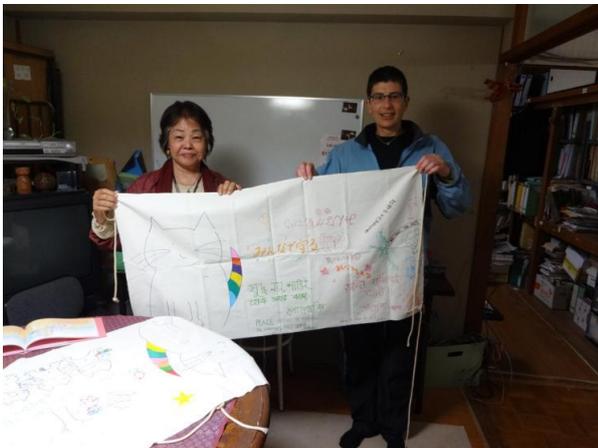
* You can purchase a copy at the Kobe YMCA!

Popoki, Masanyan and Ronyan go to Okinawa!

From 20-24 March, Popoki and Ronyan went with Masanyan to Henoko and Takae in Nago City, Okinawa. On the last day, they met up with Nanohananyan, Wabinyan, Ryotanyan and Akenyan in Naha. The following is a photo report of their trip.

Takae is a village located in the northern part of Okinawa Prefecture, surrounded by subtropical forest. It is also surrounded by a US jungle warfare training area. As Masanyan wrote in Popoki News No.100, construction has begun on helipads in the forest.

On the mainland (Honshu), we often hear of the 'Okinawa US military base issue' or the 'Henko issue.' Popoki and I have been interested in these issues for a long time and try to pay attention to what is happening in Okinawa. But when, at the invitation of Masanyan and Akenyan, we saw the film, "The Targeted Village" and learned about helipad construction in Takae and other problems, we realized how ignorant we were. Since we had never been to Takae, we decided that the first thing we should do in support was to go there, breathe the fresh air, experience the exuberant natural environment and talk with people who are working to protect it. We hope that when Popoki's friends read this report, they will become interested in the problem and offer support to the people of Takae.



As we reported in last month's *Popoki News*, we asked people at Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival and in Otsuchi-cho to help make two banners, one supporting Takae and the other supporting Henoko. Before taking them to Henoko and Takae, we stopped by Suzuyo Takazato's office to show them to her. Ms. Takazato has been at the forefront of the struggle against sexual violence around military bases and opposing US bases in the Pacific region. She was delighted with our messages and that we had come to help.

The sit-in opposing the construction of helipads in Takae has been going on for about eight years. In order to understand what the people involved in the sit-in are trying to protect, we not only joined the sit-in but also talked with people and went to explore the amazing natural environment. Volunteers take shifts and when necessary stay around the clock, but when we arrived, the second of six helipads had just been completed, and actual construction of the third is not expected to begin until around June or July. Trucks carrying construction and other equipment came out of the gate, but the sit-in was pretty quiet and relaxed. At the same



Volunteers from Naha sit by the main gate, checking vehicles going in and out. "Now is the time to stop this construction!" They are looking at Popoki's new book.

time, US Marines were training inside this Jungle Warfare Training facility, and we could see them coming in and out – not a common sight. I was surprised that while there is a fence near the gate it differs from Guam and other places I have visited in that the fence does not completely surround the training area. Having no fences was frightening because we could not tell whether or not we were on military property, and we also did not know where we were in relation to the training soldiers. We heard many stories from residents about soldiers appearing suddenly out of the forest.



We were also taken to visit the forest. There were so many creatures that were new to us, such as fireflies that don't light up! We often hear of damage from foreign species, but we learned that when an environment is healthy, the creatures living there are able to protect themselves from intruders. However, when the environment has become damaged from development or other activities, the local species are not able to protect themselves when new species appear.

The environment of Yanbaru is so rich and unique that it has been proposed as a world heritage site. Unfortunately it cannot be registered because it is impossible to protect and/or access the forest under military control. Moreover, military exercises and helipad construction require roads. These roads are barriers, preventing living creatures to cross freely, and leading to the degradation and eventual destruction of the environment.

The Takae area is home to the Yanbaru Kuina (photo) and other threatened species. In addition to environmental damage caused by humans, the mongoose population is said to be wreaking havoc. There are many mongoose traps lying in the forest. I am sure that I am not the only person who, upon first sight, is curious. We were very shocked to find that near the base, DANGER written on them in English, but nothing written in Japanese.

We hung Popoki's message in the sit-in tent! While we were there, I asked some volunteers who commute more than 2 hours each way from Naha why they came. "This is new construction, so we have to stop it now! It is urgent. And I really want to protect the environment." I really understood that being involved in a sit-in means that you can't do usual everyday activities like working or shopping or doing errands. I felt deep respect for the people involved in this struggle and want to help and support them.

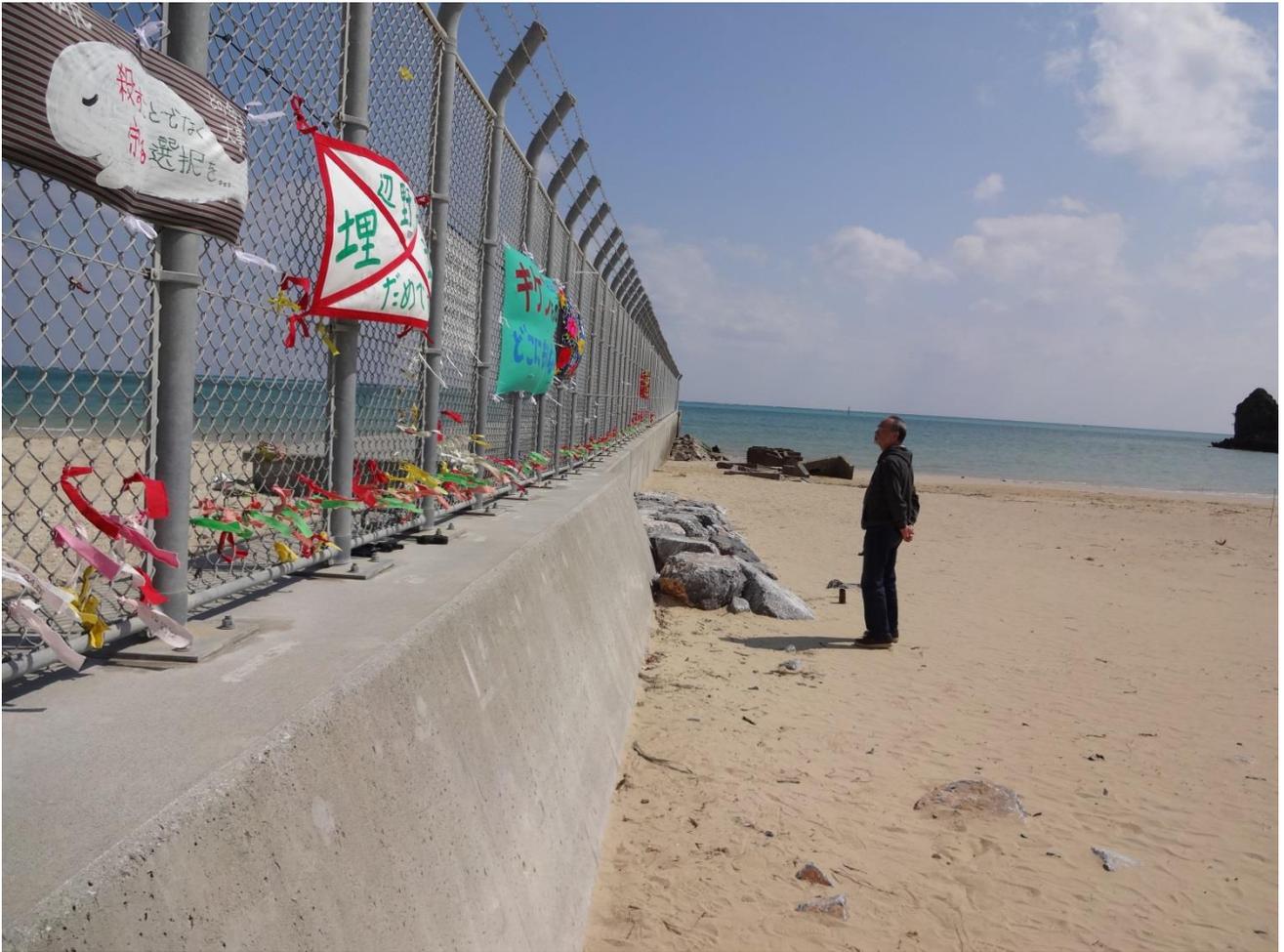


We also took Popoki's message to Henoko and hung it in the tent of a sit-in that has been going on for about 18 years. We wanted to put it on the fence, but they say that recently anything on the fence is taken down by the US soldiers. When we heard that, we decided to hang Popoki's message inside the tent, so he can continue giving support for a long time.

We were given an explanation of the current situation by someone who has been involved for a very long time. They are planning to fill 160 hectares of ocean and beach. Where will the dirt come from? Why do they have to do this? What will happen to the flow of the current? What will happen to the jugon and other creatures who live there? Why are they forcing this through, in spite of the strong local opposition?



I drew a huge Popoki in the sand against a backdrop of sparkling blue sea and white sand. While I was drawing, some armed soldiers came by on patrol. Why do they have to build a base here? The big Popoki is angry, and will keep on protesting.



Photos: Top and bottom right: Henoko.
Lower Left: Near the main gate in Takae



Please help to gather signatures!



平成 25 年 (ネオ) 第 16 号 通行妨害禁止請求上告事件
平成 25 年 (ネ受) 第 17 号 通行妨害禁止請求上告受理申立事件
上告人 (申立人) 伊佐真次
被上告人

最高裁判所 御中

高江ヘリパッド建設反対運動弾圧訴訟の公正判決を求める要請

米軍ヘリパッド建設に反対する沖縄県東村高江住民の運動を「通行妨害」だとして国が伊佐真次さんを訴えている事件の 1 審、2 審の判決は、伊佐さんの主張をことごとく退けるきわめて不当なものです。

この問題の発端は、防衛省沖縄防衛局が住民の反対を無視して一方的に、高江集落をとり囲むようにヘリパッド建設を強行しようとしていることにあります。

この訴訟は、国が、ヘリパッド建設に反対する運動を弾圧する目的で住民を相手に起こしている前代未聞の訴訟(「スラップ訴訟」)です。「通行妨害」とされた伊佐さんの行為は、住民が平穏な生活を守るために、工事を強行する防衛局の職員に対して抗議の意思を表明した非暴力のものであり、これを禁ずる判決は憲法第 21 条が保障する表現の自由に対する重大な侵害です。

高江のヘリパッドは、日米両政府が配備を強行している危険な欠陥機オスプレイの着陸帯として使用されており、住民の不安と懸念はますます増大しています。

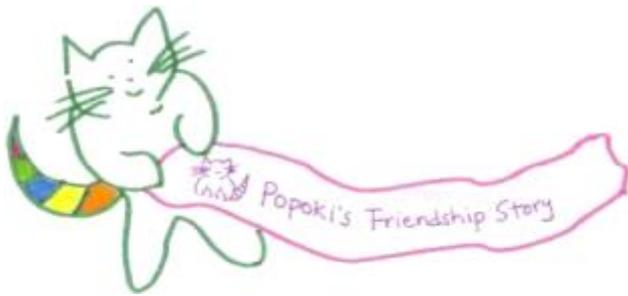
私たちは、最高裁が、高江の住民の置かれている実情をふまえ、被告の行動の事実を検証して、上告を受理し、国の不当な訴えを退ける公正な判決を出されるよう求めます。

氏 名	住 所

高江住民運動弾圧訴訟をたたかう伊佐真次さんの最高裁でのたたかいを支援する会

事務局 安保破棄中央実行委員会 〒101-0061 東京都千代田区三崎町 2-11-13
電話 03-3264-4764

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BwP1pRAf90URdDJBWTIRSkNScFE/edit>



Popoki's Interview

☆ Meeting friends in Otsuchi-cho ☆

Just prior to the third anniversary of the 2011 March 11 disaster, we went to Otsuchi-cho to share some 'genKi' to our friends there (2014.3.8-10)

Ronyan & Satonyan

Three years...

Three years = 1,095 days = 26,280 hours = 1,576,800 minutes.

For a twelve-year-old, it is a quarter of his/her life; for a three-year-old, it is his/her entire life.

Is this a long time? Just as Einstein says in his theory of relativity that time is not always the same, so perhaps people feel the passage of time differently.

How about you? Please think back three years. What were you doing and feeling? What has happened since? What did you achieve, do for others, or have others do for you? What have these three years meant for you?



Looking back, we can say that these three years have been a time of great learning for Popoki and for us.

We went to Otsuchi-cho from 8-10 March, taking the new book *Popoki, What Color is Genki?* It is cold in Tohoku in March, and there was still snow in Shin Hanamaki!!! The snow was gone from Otsuchi-cho, but it was cold - sometimes -7°C . The blossoming of the cherry trees is still a long ways away.

But the pink picture book brings many smiles!

In the coastal area of Otschi where land-fill has begun, it was as if time had stopped. In contrast to the blue sky, the world of people was colorless (Satonyan) or just one shade of gray (Ronyan).



Closed roads, detours.... You can see the town hall building in the photo, but you can't get there. Some graves have been moved; it is hard to access the remaining ones. "It is so hard to go anywhere.... The taxis are making money, but...." The small office selling dried salmon we visited in December and Tsudo's office have all been torn down.



According to the sign (right), the work will end on 30 September 2015. Then buildings will have to be built.... It will be at least three years before people can live there usual lives there. What should Popoki do during this time?

Three years. Are you still thinking about the disaster?

One of Popoki's friends told us a story. "Before, at various events and gatherings, all you had to do was say you were from Tohoku and people would buy even small things. But now we can't sell anything. Not only that, but they say, 'the disaster - even now?' You know, it makes me really sad."

Hearing her story reminded us of similar comments after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Most of the time, people don't mean to forget. It's just that there is much much happening in their lives....



As we were getting ready to leave, she said "You won't be back, will you?" We were taken aback. "So many people have stopped coming...."

"We'll keep coming back. Is it OK with you?" She smiled and looked relieved.

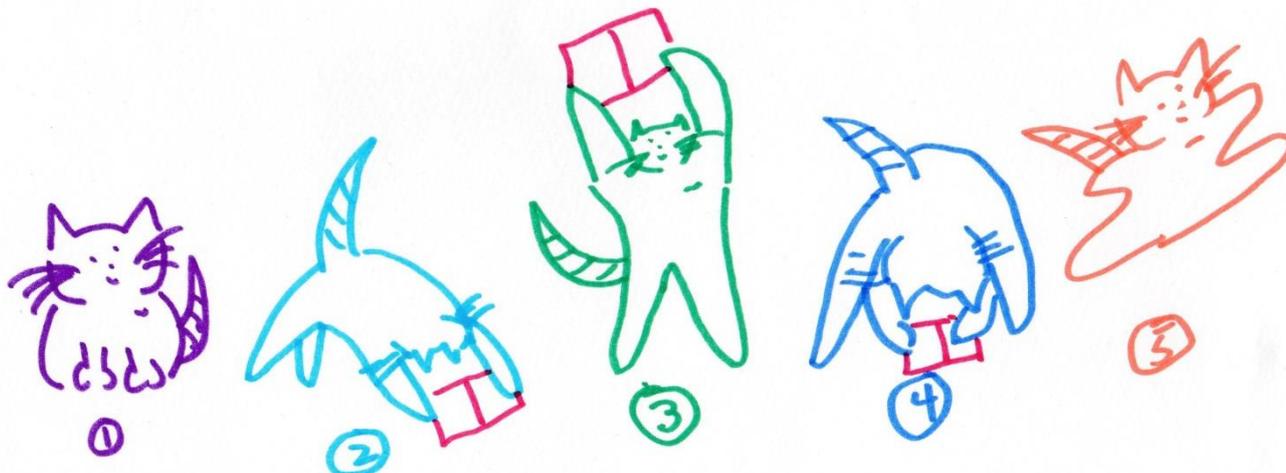
What can Popoki do? He can't solve the problems that people in Otsuchi are facing. We think that Popoki's smile can help to give genki, hope and support for those who are working in so many places. From now on, too, Popoki will be beside you.



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 71

This month's Poga is about stretching while reading a book!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. Place your book on the floor on your left side. Now stretch way over to reach it. You can also do this while kneeling if you prefer, but try on both sides.
3. Next, bring your arms way up, and keeping your head straight, raise your eyes way up to see the page.
4. Finally, bend down and look at the book through your legs. Bring your arms through your legs or, if you prefer, from the front.
5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 71. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 5/15 Kobe YMCA 19:00- Rm.306

5.9-11 Popoki in Fukushima

5.17 Popoki at Kio University

6.1 Popoki at Nada challenge festival! 10:00~16:00, Tokagawa Park, Nada-ku, Kobe. Please come and join the fun.

6.13 Peace and Health Workshop at Osaka Active Studio. 18:30~20:00.

7.12 Popoki at Kodomo no sato, Nishinari-ku, Osaka. 10:00~12:00.

8.5 Popoki at the Seminar on Education for International Understanding, JICA Kansai

8.6 Popoki's Hiroshima Day shadows and skype.

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
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- “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
- *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

Bashir Uddin



It is always fun to write about Popoki. Writing about Popoki, especially in April when cherry blossoms (locally known as Sakura in Japan) are in full bloom, really makes me happy. I see many friends of Popoki come out and enjoy the view of cherry blossoms, which is commonly known as 'Hanami' in Japanese. Hanami is held under the Sakura trees where people enjoy the view of Sakura. Is it only human who enjoy Hanami? How about the animals? Popoki has both animal and human friends. I believe both enjoy it.

The place where I live is an area of Kobe city named Shinkobe. There is a big park beside a river where every year in April a lot of people, Popoki's human friends, gather to celebrate Hanami with their fellow workers, friends and families. They gather there in order to do picnics, BBQs, drinking, chatting and sometimes singing. Many of Popoki's animal friends such as stray cats, pet dogs and birds also enjoy Hanami. During the time of Hanami everyone usually looks happy, which may show that they are spending peaceful time.



Hanami is a time honored tradition in Japan. It is a time to respite from winter and welcome the arrival of spring. It is believed that the origin of Hanami dates back to more than a thousand years ago when aristocrats enjoyed looking at beautiful cherry blossoms and wrote poetry. It is said that Hanami was originated during Nara period (710-794) and by the time of the Heian Period (794-1185) it had become more popular. Although Hanami was limited to the elites during Imperial Court, it widely spread out during the time of Samurai and Edo Period in the 15th century which paved the way to modern day Hanami.

Japanese people love Hanami so much that they presented Sakura trees as a gift to the United States. Many People in the USA enjoy Hanami, too.

For me, Hanami represents peace, tranquility and happiness. When I enjoy Hanami I remember Popoki's peace message in a form of poetry:

You are not alone
You are with me
Let's walk together in harmony
To the road of peace
Under the canopy
Of Sakura trees.



(Inspired by Popoki and Sakura)

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@gmail.com))



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

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