



Happy Holidays from Popoki!

Whatever your beliefs and special days might be, we hope you can spend them in peace with those you love.

Popoki's Hot News!



Popoki's Peace Book 3!

You can get copies of the third book in the Popoki's Peace Book series, *Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3* 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, Ana-nyan, sent the following piece of peace:
"This semester, I forced myself into situations of interest for me, even though I knew it would be challenging. My journey of fulfilling something which seemed an impossible feat, had really helped me to realize how strong I can be if I only challenge myself. I learned that first and foremost, I must believe in myself, in order for me to persevere until a task was completed. Having faith in my potential was a critical factor in helping me to persevere and work hard. So, I guess the lesson here for me is: even if no one else believed in my potential, believing in myself was enough for me to pursue my interests and persevering until the task was completed."

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.

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 too!

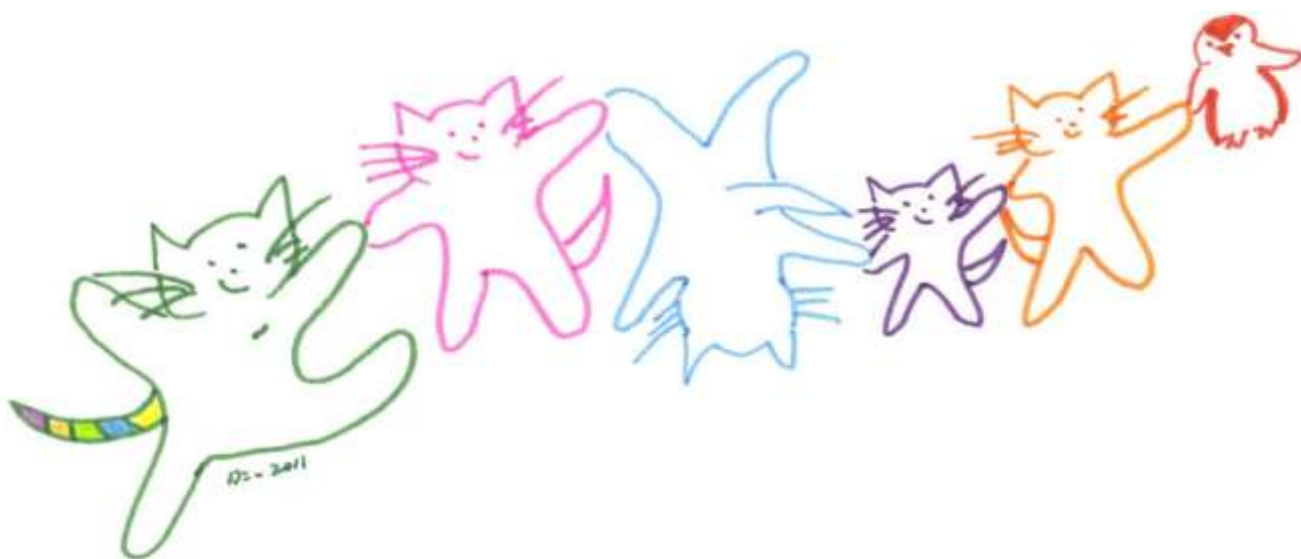




This is the last Popoki News of 2014.

Thank you for a great year!

We hope to see you next year, too!



Ronyan's Adventures (2)

Ronyan

In last month's issue of 'Popoki News', I focused on war experiences in Palau, but also mentioned that when I asked people if things had gotten better in these thirty years, nobody said 'yes'. Those answers were made thoughtfully in the context of conversations about changes since I had last visited Palau. I received a comment from a Palauan friend that these negative responses were overstated, not scientific, and reflect badly on Palau. I appreciate the criticism and would like to take this opportunity to respond.

Let me begin by reassuring her that my purpose was not to criticize Palau or portray it in a bad light. Like most people, I am concerned about Palau's future, just as I am concerned about the future of other countries in the world and believe that the amount of global time, money, energy and intellect going into fighting one another takes away from the resources that could otherwise be used to address issues of development, environmental degradation, poverty, and disaster. It is a difficult time in history, and I think that in some ways the replies to my questions reflect this challenging time. They do not mean that Palau is not stepping up to meet those challenges.

There are of course other reasons for the lack of enthusiastic and positive responses. Perhaps the most significant relates to the fact that the most important things are those which are hard to see. Often it is only after they are gone that we realize their importance. This makes it is easier to see the things that have been lost rather than the improvements that have been made. For example, people complained about the number of cars and crowded roads in Koror, but probably nobody wants to go back to not having very many cars. Changes, and often good changes, have certainly occurred, but they are not necessarily happening at the pace or in the ways most desired by the people with whom I spoke.

Among the most important and positive changes in these thirty-some years are the adoption of a nuclear-free constitution (1980), the ending of the American Trusteeship and the establishment of a new relationship of independence in free association with the United States (1994). The United States made signing the Compact of Free Association contingent on changing the nuclear-free clauses of Palau's Constitution. Those who remember that time know there was a terrible struggle between those who wanted to keep the Constitution and those who wanted to change it, but today it is not discussed or taught in schools, so many people do not know much about it. Roman Bedor, a lawyer who worked energetically to protect the Constitution, has decided to write a history of that time, and his book should be out soon. He told me, "I want the young people to know their own history, including that of the struggle." It is still very difficult to talk about that time. I asked Roman if he was afraid, even after all these years. He said that he thought it would be all right, and that in any event it is a necessary thing to do. I admire his courage and commitment. I also appreciate that without social changes, it would still be impossible to discuss this difficult era in Palauan history. A critical understanding of history is essential for building a peaceful and harmonious society. Perhaps the rest of the world will be able to learn from Palau's example.

The changes in technology and communications that have taken place over the past thirty years have changed the lives of all people on the planet. Palau has benefited from many of those changes, but change always comes with a cost. For Palau, like many countries, it is a challenge to find the right balance between sustainability and development. Palau is a very small island country whose most important resources are the land, ocean, and people. The traditional lifestyle was one in which the people were the



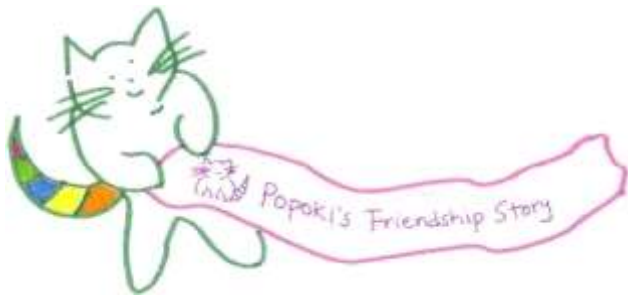
defenders of the environment and the balance was maintained. Today that is being challenged in many ways. One of the most serious challenges, global climate change, has its origins outside of Palau, but has a huge impact. Palau's President Remengesau has come out strongly at both the national and international levels to enact measures to protect the environment and combat climate change. This is visible not only at the level of policy and international negotiation, but also as a tourist. For example, when a foreign visitor leaves Palau, in addition to the US\$20.00 departure tax, s/he is required to pay a \$US30.00 fee for environmental protection. This is unusual and for many tourists, including me, it felt like a lot of money. While waiting in line to pay, I reflected that it is actually a small price to pay for protecting one of the best diving spots in the world for future generations.

Of course, exit taxes and surcharges are nowhere near enough to stop climate change and protect Palau's environment; everyone must do his/her part not only in Palau but at



home – and all the time! If we were all to follow Palau's example and get serious about the environment, maybe we will be able to leave a better world for all of our children and generations to come. On reflection, the negative response to my question was not about Palau so much as a challenge to us all. How much of a difference can we make in the next thirty years?





Popoki's Interview



Interview: Mr. NAGATA Fumio

Organizer

Iwate Association to Protect the Sanriku Coast from Radioactive Contamination

Hayashi-Nyan

In September 2014, I met Mr. Nagata, an organizer for “Iwate Association to Protect the Sanriku Coast from Radioactive Contamination”. We met for two hours at a café in Morioka Station during a Kobe University volunteer bus trip to Iwate. I have been to Iwate many times with the volunteer bus and Popoki, but have had few opportunities to talk about the impact of the nuclear accident, though I heard many people talk about the tsunami. This time I attempted to interview activists for denuclearization who are at work in Iwate.

They started their activities from the protest for the “active test” by the Rokkasho Village nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, Aomori, in February 2005 because the plant company was actually planning to release a high level radioactive liquid waste. “The petition for Sanriku Coast Conservation from Radioactive Contamination” was adopted unanimously by the Iwate Prefectural Assembly. But the company carried out the release of the radioactive waste into the air and sea. Mr. Nagata thinks that this was not the first time, so there was a ‘precedent’. The construction of a reprocessing plant for medical radioactive waste (RMC Iwate Takizawa village) was a foreshadowing of the Rokkasho plant. Mr. Nagata was energetic in the surveillance committee for the RMC, and the new RMC project was rejected by the village chief in 2004. The director of the RMC stated in his paper that their objectives were first radiation medicine, second research, and the third waste. Mr. Nagata felt the director’s statement was true.

Mr. Nagata was a high school chemistry teacher in Iwate from 1964. He conducted tests of water quality with his students as part of the chemistry club activities. He established an inquiry committee for environmental disputes within the union of education workers, and he was a committee member. When we did this interview, he was waiting for a reply to an open letter of inquiry to the company about the preventive measures for serious accidents for the Rokkasho plant. The Rokkasho plant already has high concentration of radioactive liquid waste. If a disaster were to strike this plant and the waste leak, there will be unrecoverable damage. But the preventive measures by the company are very poor in comparison with the estimated damage. Although it was past the deadline, Mr. Nagata had not received the company’s reply to their concerns. The letter was signed and sent jointly by not only the Iwate Association but also residents of Rokkasho Village, fishermen from Iwate, Aomori, and

Hokkaido. Mr. Nagata says that it was very difficult to get residents of Rokkasho to cooperate.

At that time, Mr. Nagata was also involved in filing a written demand regarding the burning of radioactive pasturage waste and mushroom bed logs. The demand was submitted to the Morioka City Office. The city office insisted to the local residents that they were able to catch more than 99% of radioactive cesium at the incineration plant, but the data of Fukushima released by the Ministry of the Environment shows that more than 25% of the radioactive cesium was released to the open air. The Association demanded a scientific assessment and a change in the security measures, for example burying it underground. Through Mr. Nagata's accounts, we can be aware that we outsiders have very few opportunities to know the difficulties concerning contamination not only in Fukushima but also in Iwate.

The reason why Mr. Nagata pursued the Rokkasho reprocessing plant and the problems at the incineration plant is that we do not have any environmental regulations concerning radioactivity. Mr. Nagata carries on a campaign to establish environmental protection laws. By that, he is implementing a strategy for denuclearization from the "outside." Another activity of the Association is a campaign to demand thyroid tests for children. Mr. Nagata's conviction that strong movements in Iwate will help to support and reinforce Fukushima is impressive for me.

I understand that Mr. Nagata's work has not particular political or other affiliation. This nonsectarian character is demonstrated by the fact that the Association's demand in 2005 to the prefectural assembly was passed unanimously. Although the movement for denuclearization has become fragmented over trivial differences, Mr. Nagata gets his motivation from the belief that if everyone does his/her best, then something unexpected will happen. He was very impressed by the juridical decision by the Fukui district court that banned the restarting of Ohi nuclear power plant. The National Diet session held in 1970 is called the "Pollution Diet" because it passed a lot of laws concerning pollution in spite of strong aspirations and trends toward high-rate economic growth. While he anticipates a second coming of that kind of national Diet, he takes part in the movements toughly and steadily with his stance, while he also tries to understand the role of counterpart bureaucrats.

Web Site:

Iwate Association for Protecting Sanriku Coast from
Radioactive Contamination
<http://sanriku.my.coocan.jp/>



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 79

This month's Poga is about using abs!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look beautiful.
2. Lie on your back. Bend your knees leaving your feet on the floor, or if you want, raise your legs, keeping them bent or straight. Now raise your head and shoulders. Do you feel the pull on your abs?
3. Next, lie on your side with your legs straight and your top leg a little bit behind the lower leg. Now raise the lower leg.
4. Finally, raise your legs in the air. If you like, try going all the way up to your shoulders.
5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 79. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 12/27 Ponenkai!!! 18:00-18:30 Po-kai, 18:30~ Ponenkai! Shinkobe OPA, Mamenohatake

2015.1.9 Poster session at 3rd Kobe University Symposium on Disaster Support and Research, Kobe University Idemitsu Rokko Auditorium (Rokkodai Campus). Information, reservations phone 078-803-5029.

2015.1.15-21 Popoki at 'Messages for Children' Exhibit in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, Kobe Citizen's Gallery, Kobe City Hall building 1, 2F. 10:00~18:00.

2015.2.26-3.2 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho

2015.3.? Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival (tentative)

From Popoki's friends

Raisins from Afghanistan Project (CODE): The amount of the grapes is increasing year by year with the project. We want many people have chance to taste the Afghan grapes and we have finally begun importing their grapes as raisins. The grapes are dried in the sun in Mir Bacha Kot by the grape farmers and delivered to Japan Fairtrade Committee to get packed. The grapes have a naturally sweet taste with no use of agrichemicals or added substances. The profit goes to people in Mir Bacha Kot. You can order them from us or get more information from: <http://code-jp.org/afghanistan/index.html>

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
- *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

Matsuda Yasuyukinyan

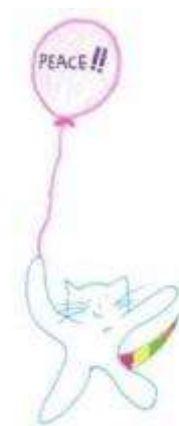
I first met Popoki a while after the first Popoki picture book was published. Since then, I have worked with Popoki when we held workshops for kids in YMCA after school programs, YMCA committees, and for parent-child programs.

Popoki is popular with adults and children, and people understand him in no time. Popoki is not disliked by anyone, and he does not dislike anyone. I feel that it's such a nice presence. I think it is happening a lot around us that someone dislikes everyone and is disliked by them. But we can learn to think a little more about others than ever before, and reconsider ourselves when we think about "Peace" with Popoki. I hope I will have many more chances to meet lots of people with Popoki. I will stay with you Popoki !!



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

The Popoki Peace Project is a voluntary project which uses Popoki's peace books 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

THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!



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