



March is almost over. Plum trees are blossoming around Popoki's house and soon the cherry trees will begin to bloom. Is peace being able to enjoy your favorite flowers and the richness of nature?

Popoki's Hot News!

Coming soon! Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival!

Please mark your calendar for 28 March, 13:30~16:30 at Kobe YMCA!



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, Chelsey-nyan, sent the following piece of peace:

"Recently I have started a new part-time job. To be honest, I'm not efficient enough and there are tons of failures I make due to the lack of job experience. However, I try to show how much I am willing to learn and do my best on everything I can!! So lately the task I handle is even increasing, and sometimes

I get also other work too. Moreover, some customers come to encourage me!! I am so happy about all of these."

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!**



Gathering for Peace with Popoki

~Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival No.4~

“Learn about the Great East Japan Disaster and think about the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant Accident”

Beginning with the the first “Gathering for Peace” in 2002, we have periodically held these meetings to provide opportunities to consider what we can do to create peace. Using our perspective as local citizens, we aim to learn the “truth” about various situations to find ways to act for peace.

What is peace? What shape is peace?
Is it possible for films to express peace?
Shall we think about peace together?
Popoki will join us!!



Please bring your own drinking cup!



We have planned a Film festival & talk session.
Please come watch films and talk about them together!
Come when you like, watch what you like, bring your lunch or a snack...

WHEN: 2015.3.28 13:30 – 16:30

WHERE: Kobe YWCA Room 402, 403-12-10

1-12-10 Ninomiya-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe Tel. 078-231-6201

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

SPONSORS: Popoki Peace Project, Kobe YMCA, Kobe YWCA

THEME: Thinking about the Great East Japan Disaster and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

PROGRAM

*The titles of the films will be revealed on the day of the festival. Please look forward to it!

- 13:30 Greetings
- 13:35 Situation of children in Fukushima today
Watch this documentary and think about the problems of children in Fukushima
- 14:45 Break & discussion
- 15:20 Learn about the situation in Otsuchi-cho, Kamiheigun, Iwate Precture
Feel the reality of the disaster through photos and a slide show
- 15:30 Understand Fukushima through art!
How can the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant Accident be expressed using art?
- 15:55 Discussion/sharing/reflections

Information and Reservations

Popoki Peace Project

ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

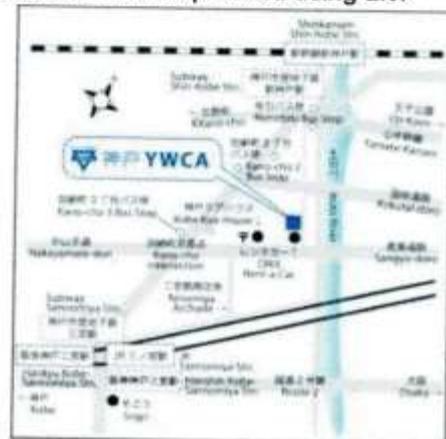
or

神戸YMCA International Community Center

(Contact person: Matsuda)

TEL (078) 241 - 7204

e-mail houshi@kobeymca.org



Popoki in Otsuchi-cho

Popoki and his friends went to Otsuchi-cho from 27 February – 2 March for a series of workshops and an exhibit of some Popoki Friendship Story cloths. The following are reports from his friends. We hope you enjoy them.

Popoki Report: Day 1

Ana-nyan

On Friday 27th of February I arrived in the town of Otsuchi located within the prefecture of Iwate. Iwate is close to the north-eastern tip of the island Honshu in Japan, facing the Pacific Ocean. Otsuchi, along with many other places in Japan, had been severely damaged from the 2011 earthquake which also generated a colossal tsunami that had wiped out buildings and houses in this coastal area, as well as tragically taking the lives of 10% of the total population in Otsuchi, which is approximately 13,000 people. At first glance, when arriving in Otsuchi, I am surrounded by hills and trees – a welcome sight from the usual sight of tall skyscrapers and tightly-packed buildings standing side by side. Later on, I would find out that these hills would be where people ran to for refuge from the deadly 2011 tsunami.

I had travelled to Otsuchi with four other Popoki members to hold an exhibition of Popoki's friendship cloth as well as to participate in workshops facilitated by Popoki members with various sectors of the Otsuchi community. In total, we spent four days in Otsuchi. Our first stop in Otsuchi, after being dropped off on a bus stop on the side of the road, was to head towards the Lawson convenience store. At Lawson, we were picked up by Motomochi-san who is a friend of Popoki and who works with the Otsuchi community in its rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of the 2011 natural disasters. I had met Motomochi san two times before.

The first time I met Motomochi san was when she visited a school seminar of mine in Kobe University where we had discussed the issue of “how we can feel safe when a natural disaster occurred”. Such discussions made me very anxious and nervous. However, I remember thinking that if I ever had to face a natural disaster similar to that experienced by Otsuchi, I would want to be in the company of my family. By having my family with me in times of a natural disaster, I would feel at ease, since I am with them and am able to provide for them in times of need. The second time I had met Motomochi san was when she had visited the Popoki booth during the Nada challenge in June 2014. The Nada challenge is an annual festival for the Kobe community, which had been initiated to help with the early recovery of residents after the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake of 1995. Motomochi san came to show her support for Popoki's efforts and she came with some mochi sweets ☺

It was nice to spend time with Motomochi san during this visit to Otsuchi. She had

provided her Office space as a venue we would utilize for our first Popoki workshop. This workshop was held in collaboration with a story-telling mothers group, some of whom had been reading stories to children in schools for as long as 12 years! When asked why they got involved, one mother mentioned how she wanted her child to be more interested in reading than she had been as a young girl. On the topic of natural disasters, the mothers shared their stories through pictures they had made, with the final presentation of these pictures executed with no explanations. The silence was powerful, as the pictures did all the talking!



Later on in the afternoon, we met Ito san, who gave us a tour around the Otsuchi area where we were able to see buildings still standing as wreckage from the Tsunami. We also were able to see the current ongoing reconstruction work taking place from the hills (Shiroyama), where we were standing. From the top of these hills, we could see many heavy-duty vehicles executing construction tasks involving earthwork operations. It was visible that reconstruction

efforts included rebuilding upon higher ground. As I stood there upon the hill looking down at reconstruction efforts, I wondered how such reconstruction efforts would stand the test of another Tsunami if it were to occur again.

Coming to Japan in 2014 as an international student, the memory of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami was still vivid in my mind. In my country, Tonga, I remember participating in two activities to help raise money for recovery efforts in Japan. Tongan student-alumni, who had studied in Japan, had held a dance and sold dance tickets and shirts to raise money. Also, Tonga Red Cross had held a road-side donation event for passing vehicles on the main road in the capital of Tonga, Nuku'alofa. JICA Volunteers, Japanese Embassy Staff, Red Cross volunteers, Tongan student-alumni and friends had gathered by the road with their donation boxes for Tohoku recovery efforts. Someone had also donated cakes to sell that day. We had a speaker-set with the announcer calling on the microphone for the public to donate as well as a radio station making announcements live on-air.

In spite of Tonga's poor financial conditions, I remember a substantial amount being collected during these efforts to help Japan with its recovery efforts.



Popoki report: Days 2 and 3

Anna nyan



The evening before the first exhibition day in MAST we decided where the exhibition should be shown and how it should be displayed and which cloths we should hang where. Morinyan and I had already prepared an information sign and drawn animals from the Popoki books on paper which we wanted to put as decorations at the exhibition. Moreover, we bought balloons and a flag festoon to make the exhibition eye-catching and to explain what this project is about for visitors. The exhibition was on the 2nd floor of the shopping mall in front of the escalator.

On the first day we left our hostel at about 8:15 by taxi and set up the display as discussed. The decorations and the colourful cloths attracted in the first place children, who came and drew with us while their parents went shopping. We decided to read parts of the Popoki books in our mother tongues to let the children know how other languages can sound. Most of the children were interested to hear English, Tongan or German, which they probably have never heard before. But through gestures and mime (especially by Ananyan) they were able to understand. It showed that we all somehow speak the same language no matter where you are from. But of course, if they wanted to hear the stories in Japanese, Morinyan would read or tell the stories in a very lively way. Also some of the mothers who had participated in the workshop the day before came to visit us. We were happy to see that they were interested and wanted to



support us. Some of the visitors looked at the



cloths very carefully and some came to talk to us about their experiences with the tsunami. But still, many asked what this project is about and who we are, and especially Morinyan, Ronyan and Satonyan explained to them about what



we are doing with this project. We closed the exhibition before 17:00 and went back to the hostel.

The next day we left the hostel and opened the exhibition at the same time. On that day fewer visitors came to the shopping mall, so we had more time to talk with people who were interested in the exhibition and explain to them more about the project. At the

end of the day Miurasan, a 93 year-old man, came to visit and tell us his life story. He became well known in Otsuchi after writing a song about his surviving of the tsunami in 2011. He said a lot of people are moved by his song, but still do not want to hear it. As he is now 93, he survived World War II and three tsunamis in the



1933, 1988 and 2011. But, he explained to us that wars are always worse than tsunamis. Tsunamis might destroy cities, but wars last over years and even if you win or lose a war it is always painful. As advice for young people in case of a tsunami, he said that we should think about saving ourselves, but in life we should think about others rather than ourselves, try to create peace and have hope.



From left: Miura-san, Mochi-nyan, Ronyan, Anna-nyan

Workshops in Otsuchi

Morinyan

This time we had three workshops. The first one was for a group of mothers who participate in a story-telling group. The second one was for powerful elderly women over 65 years of age. The last one was for elementary students.



At the workshop for the story-telling group, the mothers looked like they were very interested in the Popoki nyan members. We started with a game to introduce ourselves. After becoming nyan friends, we read several pages from Popoki's books, using different languages. It was fun not only for us, but the participants also enjoyed it because it was different atmosphere from usual. We asked the mothers to read, too. I wondered how they felt

when reading from Popoki's peace book for the first time. At Popoki workshops, people can express their own feelings and minds as they like. The mothers also wanted to express their feelings. Implementing a new idea by Ronyan, we tried to use the cloth in a new way to show being and feeling safe. Hana chan was a great help for this new activity. She went under the cloth. Everyone copied what Hana chan did. There was a soft pink color and warm interspace. We were closer to each other and could have eye contact more easily. When we were children, we liked small spaces and made our own secret spaces, didn't we? We succeeded in trying to use the cloth in this new way. Finally, we split into groups and each made a 5-page story to be told out loud using *kamishibai*, a Japanese story-telling technique. The stories were about being and feeling safe. Each story was made on construction paper using drawing but no words. Each of the finished stories especially stressed running away from tsunami. One person made the story based on her wonderful experience of watching a huge beautiful rainbow at a time when many bad things were happening. Before a beautiful rainbow, there is rain or a storm. The story expressed not only easy and precious things, but also hard times. The finished stories were displayed together with Popoki's cloths at Mast.



The second workshop was for the powerful elderly. After introducing the nyans and Popoki, we released our physical and mental stress with Satonyan Poga She took her time and surprisingly, everyone had a flexible body! After that, Satonyan led a new activity using the cloth. We spread out cloths drawn in Fiji and the Marshall Islands and looked at them, and talked about what we thought the drawings meant. Looking at a big tree, everyone thought that it looked like *Ippon matsu*, a single pine left after the tsunami. They felt many things from the cloth, such as softness and kindness or the beauty of the color.

They didn't know the exact meaning of the pictures, but they imagined and felt what the drawings showed. When we were finished discussing the drawings, Ronyan explained that they had been made by people Fiji and the Marshall Islands who wanted to share their



feelings of being and feeling safe. Ronyan had shown a video about the tsunami at Otsuchi, and she said that as they watched, their expressions changed as they learned the frightening reality of the tsunami. South Pacific islands are also facing the problem of the sea level rise, and feel fear of that. Ronyan explained that the hard experience of people from Otsuchi was helping others to understand the danger and threat of sea and give them a

chance to re-think about being safe and feeling safe. Some people seemed to be sad and crying, but Ronyan tried to express how the behavior of Otsuchi people was important for other people around the world.

At the end, we drew new pictures on the cloth. Since many people there had lost their houses, they drew the house in which they want to live, or the house in which they had lived. Some drew gardens with beautiful flowers. A woman told me that her garden had many flowers, such as cosmos and jonquils. And she drew two people standing at the entrance, explaining they were her husband and herself. The picture has a story. And my story also began



when that I heard her story. I like Popoki's Friendship Story because allows individual stories like this to be told. Even though it is the same cloth, we can tell different stories in different ways. Now, many cloths are connected. We discovered that we can not only add new pictures, but also see and feel the pictures that are already there.

The last workshop was held at an after school center for elementary students. In the beginning, we introduced the nyans, and searched for Germany and Tonga on the map. They could find Germany easily, but Tonga was difficult to find. Next, Ananyan led us in a game using a stick. The game required teamwork and cooperation. We tried several times, but we didn't do very well. We will try again next time! After that, we introduced Popoki. I thought of an easy way to understand Popoki without needing to use a PC or projector. I chose to use a sketchbook. First, I started to explain that Popoki was a cat. I think it caught their attention. They were attracted to Popoki's big and colorful tail, and they began to like

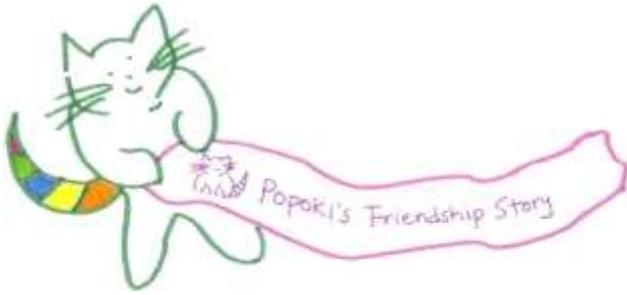


Popoki. I told them Popoki liked to think about peace, and asked them what they thought was the color of peace. Someone responded transparent! It's interesting. What's the shape? No shape, they said. But I asked what it feels like, and they answered that peace was soft. Peace was transparent, shapeless, and soft. That's an interesting image of peace. After that, we read several pages of Popoki's book. Ananyan tried reading in Tongan.

Japanese, German, Tongan, and English - we read in several languages. How did languages they had never heard before sound to them? We tried reading together in English. It was a little bit difficult. But a girl tried to find Y, which was the letter she knew. I discovered that books are for more than just reading! Finally, we made stories (*kamishibai*) about feeling and being safe. When do you feel safe? A boy answered that he felt safe in a dream. Thanks to his idea, we started to make a story about the dream. In the dream, Popoki was surrounded by a lot of dried bonito. At one point, he began to draw a poisoned apple, but he changed it and said it had colorful dried bonito inside, since he felt like he was being watched. Another boy said he had a nightmare. I wonder if it was caused by his tsunami experience. Anyway, every story was something I could not have imagined. One boy who was running around the room during the workshop actually heard everything very carefully and responded. I felt he was a kind boy. In the workshops, Minanyan tried their best, and we could try new ideas and discover new possibilities of Popoki's cloths.

Through the workshops, I got a chance to think about using words. A person who joined our workshop visited Mast to see the exhibition. She said she liked the silent story-telling because after the tsunami, she met an acquaintance at the evacuation center, and saying it was good they were able to be there. The person responded that she was there because things were not good. So the woman realized that words can be very difficult. After this experience, she stopped greeting people with words and instead just bowed and used eye contact. From Ananyan and Annanyan, I learned a lot. Even though they had a language barrier, they tried to show and express their feelings in many ways. From them, I learned the importance and possibility of non-verbal communication.





Popoki's Interview

Otsuchi-cho2/27-3/2, 2015

Satonyan

Our bus arrived a little before the scheduled 7:20 arrival, and when I got off in front of the Lawson at Otsuchi bypass, I thought it was warmer than I had expected this year. But we were soon greeted by the strong north wind which is typical of northeast Japan at this time of year. We drove through the town, taking numerous detours caused by massive land-filling and raising. It looked like a huge quarry or construction site. If I hadn't known I was in a town that had been destroyed by a tsunami, I would have thought that I was in the construction site for a large-scale new development.



I will introduce some stories that I heard during our program in Otsuchi-cho.

A-san: "Before the tsunami, when I thought about being or feeling safe, it was about food. 'Is this food safe?' or 'If I eat this, will it make me healthy?' But after the tsunami, being and feeling safe is just about the tsunami."



I think one of the good things about Popoki's Friendship Story is that it allows us to hear these stories and catch a glimpse of everyday life before the tsunami.

B-san: (After questions about our exhibition activity). "This is a good activity. It has been four years, and everyone is slowly forgetting what happened. I think they are gradually getting less prepared for disasters. I think it's very important here, but also that you share this with people around the world who have not experienced tsunami."



K-san: "I put a lot of food in the car the other day, when they issued an evacuation warning. But my husband and mother said that it was OK, and they weren't even worried. But I couldn't think it was truly OK and I was afraid."

This person feels that there are people who have already forgotten about the memory of the tsunami.

N-san: "There is no work in Otsuchi-cho, so young people can't work. It affects my son, too. He is working in Morioka. The only work in Otsuchi-cho is at construction sites."

C-san: "My father is a truck driver, and I'm driving a truck, too. It is very slow, but I think it is helping the recovery of Otsuchi-cho. I think it is work quite worth doing, and thought father's work was cool and now I have begun myself, too."

There are a variety of life-styles and a lot of ways of thinking. Mr. C's child likes his father very much and seems proud of him.

From a person who experienced a tsunami three times

I-san: I always tell my daughter that when she goes out, she should wear sturdy shoes, and carry minimum necessities, like hand warmers, a copy of her health insurance certificate, food and water. I do it, too. And I don't forget to feel gratitude. I'm always praying that all the volunteers will stay safe until they return home."

M-san: "Even if there is a tsunami, I'm not afraid. I know what to do, so I can move immediately. But you don't know that if it is your first time, and while you are trying to figure out what to do, you get caught and die. Now that I am 90 years old, I finally understand."

When I speak with a lot of people, I learn so many things. Even if I live to be 100 years old, I never want to forget to learn.



Guam is an island of beautiful sunsets. Guam served as the center for much of my journey with Popoki. As a result, I was able to learn about many things - good and bad - that I have not been able to see on short visits. But there is still so much to learn...

I lived an extravagant life, running on the beach every morning and watching the sunset on the beach almost every evening. As I was on the beach every day, I got to talk with many people and made some friends who shared their stories. For example, there is an older man who lives on the beach in a tent. He told me he was injured when in the Navy, and is waiting to go to Hawaii for treatment. On all the beaches there are public access roads and sometimes the beach property belongs to local people. This man



told me that he had pitched his tent on land belonging to his relatives. I don't know if that was true, but every time I saw him, he greeted me with a big smile and told me to help myself to a cold drink (beer). When I went swimming, he'd say, "Leave your things here with me," and when he learned I liked animals, he brought over all the dogs on the beach to be introduced. He said that when the Marines come to Guam from Okinawa, it will be like the old times (60's and 70's) when there were a lot of soldiers. When I asked him if that was a good thing, he said, "There is no good or bad when you're dealing with the military. You have to do what they say. But it will be good if it brings more jobs..."

Another person was living not in a tent but in a sort of wooden house. It was built into a hill at about my height. You go up a ladder, and at the top was a deck with room for a couple of chairs. Often there was a woman sitting there, looking down on the beach, and one day I spoke to her, and asked her if she was from Chuuk, an island in the nearby Federated States of Micronesia. There are many people from Chuuk on Guam, and I had heard that they are often poorly treated. The reason is not just that there is a large population of Chuukese, nor due to having different customs, but since they are able to access many public services, many people on Guam feel that

the Chuukese are taking resources away from them. The woman I spoke to turned out not to be from Chuuk, but once we got to know one another, she introduced me to a Chuukese person who stayed nearby. She also told me that in her opinion, people from Chuuk did not live like Americans as she did, and so people dislike them. She said that wasn't how she felt, but it made me feel that the roots of discrimination run deep. There is much I have to learn, but I enjoyed our time talking together.

Guam did not become a US possession through a process of self-determination. It was ceded to the US at the end of the Spanish American War. So Guam is still a US colony and plays an important role in US military strategy. Like Okinawa, many countries object to having US bases on their soil, and so it is useful for the United States to locate bases on Guam where it is difficult for people to object. There are other reasons too, such as



the fact that Guam allows for smooth access to China and North Korea. Living in an apartment, I was surprised to find that the military has TV channels, such as the Air Force Channel or the Pentagon channel. They not only carry stories about local news and culture, but also provide disaster information and participate in, or sponsor, charity and other events. These channels have not been available at hotels, and watching them daily made me realize how deeply the military is a part of everyday life on Guam. It is not just there to fight wars, and I began to understand why people might think the military is cool and doing various 'good things'. It was very uncomfortable for me, but it was a good chance to experience militarization up close.

When we travel, whether for fun, study, or work, it is easy to categorize the people we meet, and make assumptions about their lifestyles based on stereotypes and



information we have collected from various sources. It is not unusual to forget they the people we meet when we travel are, like us, trying to get on with their lives. Guam is known for its tourism and military bases, and these certainly dominate a large part of the landscape. But Guam is also about people living, working, eating, going to school, loving their families, hanging out with their friends, making art.... Next month, perhaps I will share some of stories these special 'regular' times I spent with friends, new and old.

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 82

This month's Poga is about using our legs and abs!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Next, lie down with your knees bent and your back firmly against the floor. Now slowly raise and lower your legs. If you want a challenge, try without letting your feet touch the floor.
3. Now keeping your knees up and bent, open and close your legs. Is your back still firmly pressed against the floor?
4. Finally, straighten your legs. For more of a challenge, open and close them.
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: 4/24 19:00 ~ Kobe YMCA (Shin Kobe OPA, 2F)

- 3.28 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival!
13:30~16:30 Kobe YWCA, 4th floor.
Venue opens at 13:00. For more information see page 2 of this issue.
- 4.9~12 Itoh Yoko Photo Exhibit! (See following page). There will be a special explanation for Popoki's friends on the afternoon of the 11th.
- 5.? Kio University Workshop
- 6.7 Nada Challenge!
- 7.11 Kodomo no sato Workshop!
- 8.6 Hiroshima Day Die In and Skype
- 10? 11? Health and Peace at HUHS



It has been 4 years...



In Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, a town that suffered almost total destruction in the 2011 tsunami, there is an amateur photographer named Itoh Yoko who is working hard to keep the memory of the disaster alive. Otsuchi is not where the town erased by the tsunami was, it is where the town is. Memory of the tsunami is rapidly fading, but people in the disaster area are still struggling for recovery.

Won't you have a look at this reality that is so different from the perception that it is an event of the past?

ITOH YOKO, Otsuchi Town, Iwate Prefecture

The Great Northeast Japan Disaster Photo Exhibition



Itoh Yoko (amateur photographer, resident of Otsuchi-cho). In spite of losing both her house and workplace in the disaster, Itoh has been keeping a record of the disaster using her camera and mobile phone which remained in her car since the day after it happened.

9 – 12 April, 2015

Kobe Youth Center

(Kobe Seishonen Kaikan)

Kumoi Dori 5-12, Chuo-ku, Kobe

(next to Chuo-ku Ward Office)

Tel: 078-232-5566

Hours: 10:00 – 17:00 (15:00 on the last day)

Admission: Free

Itoh-san will be at the venue, so please come and talk with her!

Sponsored by Volunteers to Support Itoh Yoko's Great Northeast Japan Disaster Photo Exhibit

Cooperation: Kobe Sishonen Kaikan (NPO Kobe Youth Net), Popoki Peace Project,

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)
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- “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
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- 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)
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- “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/>)
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- ‘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
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- * **Back issues of Popoki News:** http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html





What Popoki Means to Me

Tamura Kasumi

With regard to A's matriculation to the third year of high school, I hereby, as his classroom teacher, would like to ask for your approval.

I have two reasons to conclude that matriculation would be the best way for him. First, both he and his family desire it. His family stayed up all night while he was doing his assignments in order that he would be able to matriculate. But even if he is not successful, they say that he will leave school with gratitude.

Second, his condition is getting better and he has regained the goodness that he used to have. I would like to tell you about his progress on this matter. He withdrew as the captain of the basketball team when he was in the third year of junior high school. After that, he had spent his days dully. He couldn't get up on time to go to school. He didn't study at all to enter senior high school. Fortunately he could pass the examination to enter our school, but it's difficult for him not to sleep during classes.

He, however, became able to control himself and to get up on time after spending a few days with us at a school trip. He was late for school 33 hours during the first trimester and 7 hours during the third trimester. He now belongs to a basketball club and enjoys school life with a lot of friends. Unfortunately it was too late. His lack of class attendance prevented him being able to matriculate.

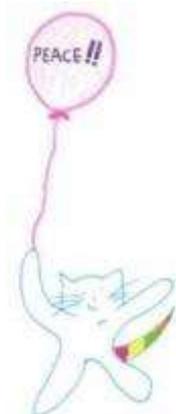
Students can get academic ability and skills at school. But I think school should be a place to learn how to live with hope. I can't imagine how his despair would affect him if he were not able to matriculate, in spite of his effort. Please tell me what you think.

**After that, his matriculation was approved by three fifths of the teachers, and permission to matriculate was also given by the principal.*



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

The Popoki Peace Project is a voluntary project which uses Popoki's peace book and DVD to promote peace through various activities such as peace camps, peace workshops, seminars and other activities. Since the March 2011 earthquake, we have also worked in the disaster area and in 2012 published a book about that work: *Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born Out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake*. *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali, Vietnamese, Arabic and Hebrew. Spanish, Farsi, Lao, Swahili, translations are underway. If you would like to translate Popoki, or have a way to have the book sold at your local bookstore, please let us know.



How to purchase Popoki's books from outside of Japan



1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)

2. In the US, thanks to a very satisfied customer, *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* can be ordered from Kinokuniya Bookstore in Los Angeles. The bookstore is at

www.los_angeles@kinokuniya.com and the telephone number is 213.687.4480. The price is US\$20.00 plus tax.

Some ways to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1, Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2, Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3* and *Popoki's Friendship Story* from inside Japan

From the publisher, Epic: TEL: 078-241-7561·FAX: 078-241-1918

From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

From the Popoki Peace Project ([popokipeace\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com))



Contributions are always welcome!

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