



**November is a month for mushrooms and sweet potatoes. These are not necessarily Popoki's favorites, but the humans around him seem happy when they eat them. We hope you can enjoy delicious seasonal favorites, too.**



## Popoki's Hot News!



### Two December events!

**12/10-11 Convention on the Rights of the Child Forum 2016 in Kansai, especially Popoki's session. A-7 on the 11th! (See page 9 for details).**

**12/14 Ponenkai at Nepal restaurant Sarangi! Hope to see you there!**



### Popoki's Peace Book 3 and Popoki's Friendship Story -

*Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake*

You can get copies of these and Popoki's other books 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, **Bashir-nyan**, sent the following piece of peace:

"When I try to achieve my goal but fail constantly and then wake up the next morning with a new hope, I feel inner peace. Is having hope necessary for all to find peace?"

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.



**Videos of Nada Challenge 2015!!! Watch on Popoki's URL or YouTube at:**  
<https://youtu.be/7LcYzZzNQYg> and <https://youtu.be/WYdWwmwogE>



## **Popoki Peace Project・ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

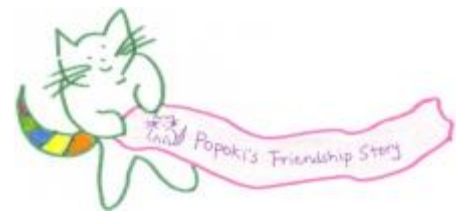
**How should we celebrate Popoki Peace Project's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?**

**It has been 10 years since Popoki Peace Project began.**

**Four books. Lots of nyan-friends. Many different workshops. Study tours.**

**About 200 meters of Popoki's friendship Story cloth. Lots of smiling faces.**

**What do you think we should do to reflect on the first 10 years, and look forward to the next ten?**



**Here are some of the suggestions we have already gathered....**

- **Make new t-shirts**
- **Popoki goods (bags, hats, clear files, etc.)**
- **Popoki postage stamps**
- **Film showing (Nuclear? Something rather expensive? Several films?)**
  - **A party or overnight gathering to talk about Popoki**
- **Have a section at the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2016 Forum**
  - **What is your suggestion?**
- **Please send it to [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !**



# Popoki Work Shop

## “Popoki” s Peace & Health”

Date: Saturday, October 15,2016

Venue: Hyogo University of Health Sciences

Pictures & Editor: Shiro Nagashige



We had a “Popoki’s peace and health” workshop in the workplace of Sato-nyan. There were ten participants (Ronyan, Popoki members and guests). It began with Poga exercises led by Sato-nyan and we felt relaxed. Then we divided into two groups. The first theme was “three ideas necessary for health”. We talked in our groups about what we thought was important.

Various ideas including both mental and material things came out of each group.



I thought it was interesting that the opinions reflected everybody’s current state of mind. But there is no giving priority to which ideas are important. I think that we should regard each thing that somebody said as important, because each person has his/her own history. The viewpoint expressed by “peace, health, relief, safety = disaster prevention” shows that each one is important. .

Then, we read aloud from Popoki’s Peace Book. Everybody and read well carefullv.





It was time for relaxing. All the members strolled along the sea side of the campus. We felt relaxed while looking at the calm sea in beautiful weather. We will enjoy peace and health definitely at this moment. So that this opportunity lasts!!

Blue sky, Calm sea, Peace,  
Health ! !

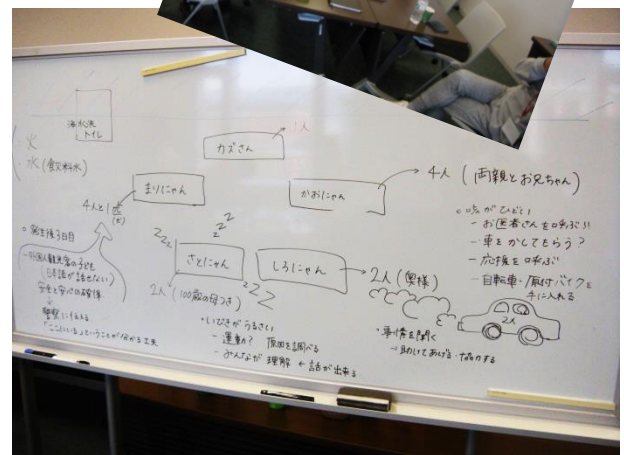
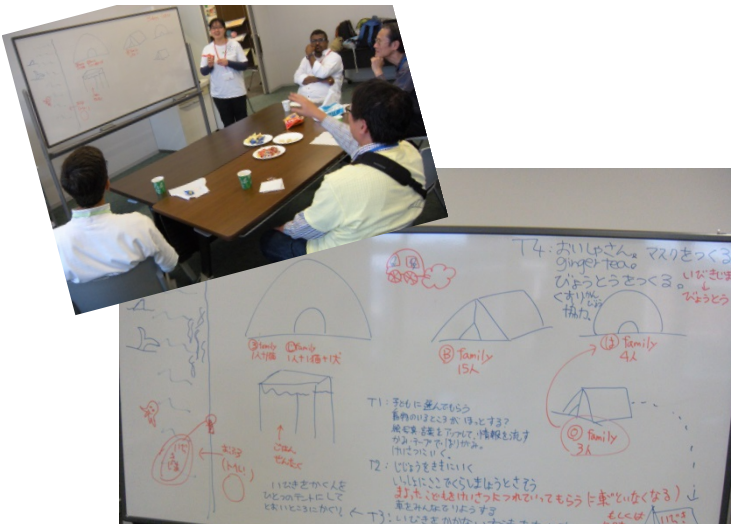


And we came back to the room and continued the workshop. The theme was “the solution to trouble”. As for the premise, 5 families who evacuated after an earthquake begin living in 5 tents at an evacuation site. Therefore we thought in groups about how to settle various problems that occurred.



**【Problems that arose】**

- \*A problem with communication
- \*Noisy snoring from the neighboring tent
- \*Bad smelling exhaust from a car keeping its engine on
- \*A lost foreign child



**【The solutions to the trouble】**

- Securing relief and security
  - “Without communicating with each other”
    - Health becomes poor out of uneasiness
    - Opposition comes out of suspicion
  - “Consideration is necessary”
    - Why? We need to know the situation of other persons
    - We should not make one-sided assumptions

★We learned some important things from today’s workshop. The people gathered come from various difficult situations. We should not watch it superficially, but engage with others. Mutual understanding will deepen if we do so.

## This year's workshop at Aboshi High School

Ronyan

This year, Mihironyan, a graduate student at Kobe University and I went back for our second workshop at Aboshi High School. We had a chance to think about peace with 30 students. These are good, serious students and I think they were a bit surprised by Popoki. They seemed resistant at first, reflecting such attitudes as, "Studying in class and using our bodies are different activities!?" "Drawing is for children!" And when I asked them, "Is Japan peaceful?" and asked them to show their opinion, I think they moved together with their friends rather than on the basis of their own opinions. Even so, they shared their ideas, most saying that Japan is quite peaceful because it is not at war, not many people are shot with guns, and they themselves and those around them are not poor. They also indicated that they did not feel such issues as nuclear weapons and war, problems of developing countries, radiation or refugees are issues close to them. At the end, although we had very little time they made bright and cheerful drawings. And when I concluded the class, something happened that made me happy. I told them that, "I have a request for you. In order to make peace in our world, it is going to become more and more important to have people who can find a way to communicate and talk with people who are said to be 'impossible to communicate with'. I want you to become people who can do that." The students listened very intently to my words. I think they will become great peace makers. I want to give a big thank you to all the teachers and students at Aboshi High who participated in the class.

## Popoki in Pittsburgh and Toronto

Ronyan

It has been five years since the Great Northeast Japan Earthquake. The Popoki Friendship Story Project begun in early April, 2011 is still continuing. The activities – drawing, talking, connecting – and the methodology is beginning to attract notice in a variety of ways. This time, Ronyan was invited to give a lecture about those activities at the University of Pittsburgh, and also to participate in an academic conference at York University in Toronto, Canada to give a presentation on her work regarding the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The following is a brief report.

1 November 2016. I gave a lecture sponsored by the Center for Disaster Management and the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Using photos and other media, I introduced the content and development of the Popoki Friendship Story Project, and talked about some of the issues we face. The talk centered on work in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, a town we have visited consistently since the disaster. People were interested in the idea of connecting and

expressing the experience of the disaster and recovery through art, and the long-term collection of stories born out of the trust developed over five years beginning with sharing drawings. In connection with the lecture, I was asked to select five photos for an exhibition. In the end I chose six, but it was extremely difficult to choose which among the five years of photos would be right to tell our story. As a result, it proved to be a wonderful chance to reflect on five years of work. I finally chose the following themes for both the talk and the photos: 'Drawing', 'Learning', 'Sharing', 'Moving and Growing', and 'Walking Together'. On the day of the talk, the participants listened intently, took time to look at the photos and asked lots of questions. My heartfelt thanks to all those at University of Pittsburgh who made this possible, all those from Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace that worked so hard and gave so much support, and to all of Popoki's friends in Otsuchi-cho and around Japan and the world!



3-5 November 2016. A scholarly conference called “Found in Translation: Cosmopolitics and the Value of Biotech” was held at York University in Toronto, Canada. On the second day, I gave a presentation focusing on the stories of people who have been affected by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Unlike the presentation at Pittsburgh University which focused on our activities in Otsuchi-cho, this was a scholarly presentation about my research on Fukushima. At the same time, it was based on the strong conviction gained from Popoki Friendship Story activities on the importance of stories – this time centering on decontamination and resistance. Presentations based on narratives such as mine were unusual at this conference, and while it felt a little bit out of place, a number of people expressed interest. In North America it is common to refer to the Great Northeast Japan Disaster as “Fukushima”, but leaving the tsunami and earthquake damage aside, it seemed that not very many people are thinking about the way it has affected the everyday lives of residents and/or former residents, and there does not seem to be much information readily available. Of course I cannot speak about all of the implications of the Fukushima Daiichi accident, but I think I was able to make a point about issues based on everyday lives. I felt the importance of continuing this discussion in many different places. I want to thank all those who helped me to make this presentation and Prof. Anna Agathangelou who invited me to participate.







## \*Popoki's Interview\*

**Interviewer: Satonyan**

**Interviewee: Women at EI Support Center**

Our work collecting stories through Popoki Friendship Story activities began in April of 2011 and is still continuing. This time we talked with 'dynamic grandmothers' at the EI Support Center in Otsuchi-cho, Kamihei Gun, Iwate Prefecture. This was the fourth time we have had a workshop at the Center, so the director and staff and some of the participants were already friends with Popoki. Other participants who only come on particular days had not yet met him.

This time, drawing began in response to our request that they draw something that they want share or leave for future children in Otsuchi-cho. A-san took a black marker and began to draw a box.

Satonyan (S): What is this box?

A-san (A): My new house.

Inside the rectangular box she drew a grid and then made a red circle in one of the squares.

She added her face, too.

A: My house is on the fifth floor.

You should come and visit me.

S: Are you living in a recovery apartment complex (apartments build by the government to house people who lost their homes in the disaster)?

A: Yes, I just moved there. It is very tall. I live on the top floor.

S: Did you live in an apartment building before the tsunami?

A: No. I used to live in a house.

S: Near the sea?

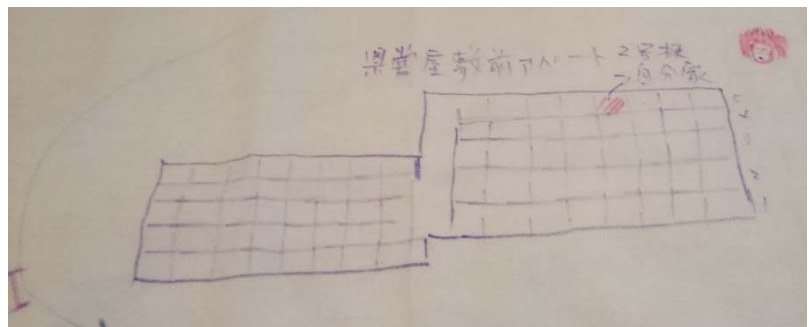
A: Yes, the sea was very close and I could look at it every day. I had a big yard too, and it was a nice house, a fun place to live. But it's gone now.

S: Can you see the ocean from your house now?

A: No, it is in the mountains so I can't see the sea.

S: Would you prefer a house where you can see the sea?

A: No, I don't need to see the sea. I don't have a yard, though. But please come and visit. I'll write down my address for you.



B-san (B) very intently drew a clock.



S: That's a really nice clock!

B: Time is really important. Time to think about lots of things. Time to forget lots of things. Time changes many things. But what I want to share is that each second is very important. At the time you don't realize it, but actually those moments when nothing special is happening are really important. That is what I want to share.

She carefully added some flowers near the clock.



Many of the women who come to this center have lost their homes and loved ones, but they look so calm and gentle as they chatted together and shared their stories with us. The cloth gradually became filled with their drawings and stories.

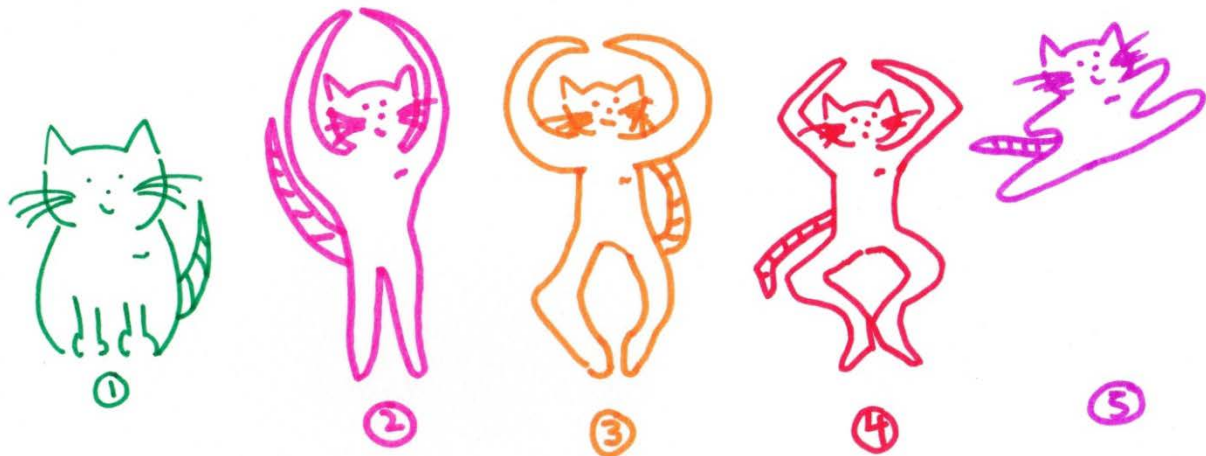




# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

## Lesson 102

This month's theme is autumn leaves!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Next, stand up and raise your arms and tail high. Envision yourself as a long, thin leaf! What color are you?
3. Now make a leaf from a cherry tree by rounding your elbows and knees. Cherry tree leaves turn beautiful shades of yellow, orange and red. How about you?
4. And now, how about making a maple leaf? Try to sharpen the angles of your elbows and knees. How many different colors can you imagine for maple leaves?
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: 2016.12.14 at Ponenkai!**

11.28 Popoki's friends AKAGI Shuji-san at Kobe University talking about Fukushima and sharing his photos. (Academiakan 707, in Japanese)\*

11.29 Popoki's friends Dr. Michael Lujan Bevacqua and Mr. Ed Alvarez will be at Kobe University talking about Decolonization on Guam. (In English)\*

12.10-11 Popoki WS at Convention on the Rights of the Child Forum, Osaka.

URL: <http://kodomonokenrikansai.wixsite.com/network>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/kodomokenri2016/>

Popoki's session is A-7 on 11 December. The participation fee: Free (age under 25) / 2000yen (age over 26) for the two days. You must register in advance.\* (In Japanese, but we will accommodate English, too).

12.14 Ponenkai! 19:00~ at Nepali restaurant Sarangi!\* (Near Motomach Stn).

2017.2.2-6 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho (tentative)\*

\* If you have not signed up but want to attend these activities, please contact Ronyan.

# Popoki in Print

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- “Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)
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- “‘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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- ‘Nada’ notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
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- ‘Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,’ *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
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- ‘Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,’ *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
- Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese (No longer available)
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- 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](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





# What Popoki Means To Me

Yeninyan



Solo (Indonesia), November 16, 2016

## What Popoki Means To Me

Hi Everyone, greetings from Indonesia! How are you? I hope all of you are fine & safe. As I am writing this, I am remembering fun memories with Popoki. There were too many good moments with Popoki and nyans, suddenly I miss all of you. It seems just like yesterday when I met Popoki, a genki cat that is always curious about many things, including me ... ☺. Often Popoki asked about my favorite color, on the next day he asked about my feeling, and sometimes this cute cat asked serious questions about peace. At first, I thought all those questions were simple acts of caring, but then I realized that by answering those questions I shared my thoughts and feelings. I gained knowledge and experiences through Popoki Peace Project during a year of study in Japan, also met my dear nyans and Popoki's wonderful friends, for those I am eternally grateful. In this recent global situation, I think we need Popoki more than Popoki needs us, this lovely cat will always remind us about the beauty of friendship and the importance of peace.

Peace, Love and Respect,

Yeni-nyan ☺



## PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

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

### How to purchase Popoki's books from outside of Japan



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

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

[www.los\\_angeles@kinokuniya.com](mailto:www.los_angeles@kinokuniya.com) and the telephone number is 213.687.4480. The price is US\$20.00 plus tax.

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

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

From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

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



**Contributions are always welcome!**

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

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