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It's almost the end of March and where Popoki lives in Kobe the cherry trees are beginning to blossom. We hope everyone gets to see a lot of cherry blossoms this season!

## Popoki's Hot News!



### COMING SOON!

21 April 15:00~ (opens at 14:30) @Kobe Student Youth Center!  
"Report Meeting on Popoki Friendship Story activities in Otsuchi in February, 2018"! It has been 7 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The town of Otsuchi suffered tremendous damage. Join us to hear about our activities there, and to talk together about disaster, being safe and feeling safe. Please see page 8-9 for more details.

### Two new articles about Popoki's work

Ronni Alexander (2018) Teaching Peace with Popoki, *Peace Review*, 30:1, 9-16, DOI: 10.1080/10402659.2017.1419669

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2017.1419669>



Ronni Alexander (2018) Drawing Disaster: Reflecting on Six Years of the Popoki Friendship Story Project, *International Studies Journal*. Available at:

[http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gsics-publication/jics/25-2/alexander\\_25-2.pdf](http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gsics-publication/jics/25-2/alexander_25-2.pdf) or

<http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/kernel/seika/ISSN=09198636.html>

### Piece of Peace

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

"When I see a beautiful sunset after a busy day,  
I think it is peace that you can enjoy beautiful views, and not take it for granted."

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: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !



## Popoki and friends in Otsuchi Part 1

Popoki went with us to Otsuchi-cho from Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will report about the journey in this and the next Popoki news.

### First Day in Otsuchi: There is always a first-time for everything Our first snow experience

**Angginyan**

Going to Otsuchi was our first and furthest journey during our study in Japan. We came all the way from Kobe by using different means of transportation (trains, plane, and bus). We made a brief stop at Tokyo where we continued our trip by a bus taking us to Otsuchi.

After a long journey through the night, Agnesyan and I were awed by this gorgeous sunrise over mountainous area from Kamaishi to Otsuchi which was covered in snow. For us, who have been living in a tropical country for our whole lives, this view just looks like a winter wonderland we often saw in movies. In Kobe, the snow was just like dust compared to this.



### Warm Greetings with Ochakko

**Agnesnyan**

Shortly after we arrived in Otsuchi on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, we went to a Temporary Housing complex and met with several obachans. After we introduced ourselves, we did Poga with enthusiasm and followed by Ochakko, an event full of warm conversation. In Ochakko, we drank green tea and ate snacks together. We talked about everything. The Obachans looked happy meeting with people from different cities and also a different country (Indonesia). They curiously asked questions about Indonesian weather, interesting places, and also our families. The cold weather that greeted us in Otsuchi was very different from the weather in Ochakko. In that very cold place, I found warm and nice people, as warm and nice as Japanese Ocha.



### **A view from upon a hill: now and then**

#### **Angginyan**

After we had fun and were welcomed warmly by an elderly community in Otsuchi, we visited a community center located at the top of a hill where we can see Otsuchi's sea sight. This place was where people ran to when 2011's tsunami occurred. They stood and watched how the wave came into the city and devastated their hometown.

We met Ms. Yoko Ito, an Otsuchi native and a survivor. She has documented the city prior to and right after the event. She showed us photographs, images that she and others captured during and after. Also, she brought some newspapers during the days close to and after the tsunami which covered news of the aftermath. Surprisingly, most of the disaster news in the national newspapers was only about the meltdowns at the nuclear power plants in Fukushima.



We then continued our activity. We went to the shopping mall, MAST where Popoki's exhibition and workshop would take place. There, we established an exhibit for Popoki's friends. The whole

afternoon was spent arranging for the next days' exhibition. We arranged panels, tables, chairs, and put up the cloths where Popoki's friends around the world have shared their messages of peace through their colorful drawings.



## Second day in Otsuchi Exhibition

Ishino-nyan

When I arrived at Mast in the morning on February 10th, long cloths drawn in the seven years of the Popoki Friendship Story Project were already exhibited. Thank you very much for preparing most of the work on the 9th. Then we added more ornaments. Origami Popoki and very big slender Popoki also appeared.

A person who saw the cloth drawn in May 2011 told me that, "It's very surprising that you have been doing this activity so early," and another person thinking about the future said, "I want to talk with people of the next generation. And I want them to take it seriously, but it is quite difficult." Of course, there were people who talked about the situation when they evacuated as if it were yesterday. It was the first time for me to visit Otsuchi, but I just thanked everyone for thinking about these 7 years, expressing it and sharing it.



## International Exchange Experience Workshop

Agnesnyan & Angginyan

On the second day of Popoki's activities, we also had a workshop. This workshop was meant to share and exchange our experiences because there were Popoki's friends from Japan and Indonesia

joining the event. We know that both countries share a similar condition: vulnerability to natural disasters, such as earthquake, tsunami, and volcano eruption.

This workshop was filled with interesting activities. We also had Popoki visitors join the event. First, we had Poga to help us relax more and feel at peace. After we refreshed with Poga, we continued the activity with introducing ourselves to our new friends. We shared our stories back home about how we had experienced natural disaster in our lifetime. By then, we felt that by sharing with and listening to others experiences helped us to feel lighter and more at peace.

Afterward, we had a story-telling session. We were divided into two groups. Each group had to choose five words to develop a story. The story might involve a disaster and things that are related to it. To make the story more attractive and easier to understand, each group had to accompany the story with drawings or illustrations, include Popoki within the storyline, and the story should have a happy ending. So, here we are with our story-telling.



We actually had a splendid time during the story telling. There were words that might make our Otsuchi friends feel uncomfortable. However, each group successfully made a story line complete with colorful illustrations. We found it very interesting that in such a short time we could make new friends and had really good times together.

And of course, Popoki made it possible for a funny happy ending.

## Workshop (Group 1)

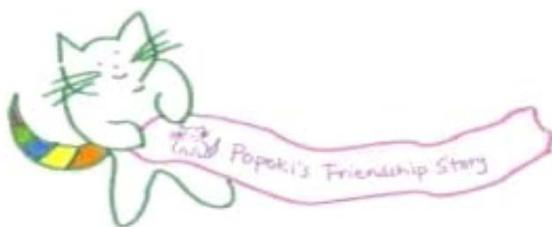
Popoki is crying. How will the story continue?

In the story that our group made, Popoki was in a shelter due to landslides, but when he got an Aramaki-salmon, he became happy. We drew disaster, evacuation, and being happy that we get to know each other. Although we were not really conscious of it, in fact even in a real kamishibai, Popoki gets fish and gets well.

From the crying situation, using the given keywords, we made a story that could have a happy ending. Our everyday life also might involve trying to be positive from accepting our current situation. If so, what is the fish for you? Who will give it to you? I hope I can give the fish to as many people as possible.

We will report about third day and fourth day in the next Popoki News. Please look forward to it.

Ishinonyan



## \*Popoki's Interview\*

Anggingyan, Ari-pan-nyan

Interviewee: Toshiro Ueta

It will be 7 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. We visited Otsuchi-cho in Iwate Prefecture and talked with Ueta Toshiro. We also interviewed Ueta before. (Reference Popoki Newsletter No.91.) What things have changed and not changed around Ueta compared with 7 years ago? We could hear so many things about past and present of Otsuchi-cho.

—What is your name?

I'm Toshiro Ueta. I'm a doctor in private practice.

—What did you do when the tsunami came?

I was working on the second floor. When the big quake happened, I was surprised very much. The



quake was so big that a patient was surprised and lost consciousness at the moment. After that, all of the patients went back to their homes. My family lived on the third floor at that time. We expected a tsunami was coming and evacuated to the roof. After a while, a white stream rushed in. The stream swallowed the third floor of my house. That night, we slept on the roof. The Self-Defense Force rescued us by helicopter on the next day. We are lucky to be alive.

—I can understand that situation because there are big disasters in Indonesia too. It is my first time to visit Otsuchi-cho. This town is so beautiful that I wonder how the large tsunami rushed in here.

I also think this town is beautiful. I lived and worked other towns like Kanazawa and Tokyo. After 18 years passed, I came back here. That time made me notice the beauty of this town.

—Did you had to work harder after the tsunami?

No I didn't. Some medical support teams, for example Nagasaki University, came here after a week, so there were enough doctors. However, there were not enough medical facilities. The patients were fewer at that time than in the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake. The tsunami took away everything, even people, so people were either alive or dead. If we had the situation like the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, we would not have been able to treat all of the patients.

—Compared with that time, many institutions and houses have been built, haven't they?

Yes, but the situation is little changed. Many people are still suffering and many people are still worrying today.

—I didn't know that situation.

There are not enough of many things. Only a tenth of the necessary houses have been built. The number of people is also declining. Especially many young people have left our town and have gone to work in a big city like Morioka.

—Is there any change in your work?

Nothing changes about illnesses. People cannot get sufficient treatment in such a small town, but it was the same before the tsunami. For example, catheters need to be used within three or four hours but if we can't do it, we just have to make do.

We talked about more topics like our countries and our families. At the time, Ueta looks well. However, we understand from this interview that he still has much suffering.

Thank you for agreeing to our interview. We will go Otsuchi-cho again with Popoki.



# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

## Lesson 118

This month's theme is being happy and stretching!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now you are happy! Put your arms way up and jump! Don't forget your tail!
3. Next, jump again but this time stretch your upper body to the left. Now try to the right. Can you feel your sides stretching?
4. Finally, stand and stretch up high, going left and right. Remember your tail, too!
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: 2018.3.29 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai (Rokkomichi)**

- 2018.4.6 UNESCO Chair Kick-off Symposium@Kobe University! Takigawa Kinenkan, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. English & Japanese. 13:00~. If you are interested in disaster, gender, or a summer program in Indonesia, please come and find out more! (See p.10)**
- 4.21 15:00 – 17:00, registration at 14:30. Report meeting for Popoki Friendship Story Project activities in February, 2018. Former participants, interested nyans, people who might become interested, please join us at Kobe Student Youth Center. Room: Kaigishitsu A. (See p.9)**
- 4.29 17:30-19:30 "Author's Live" Ronyan reading in English from Popoki's books. Venue: Bar Iznt, <http://iznt.net> (see p.11)**

**From Popoki's friends:**

**New children's book: text: Seiko Chujo; translation: Ronni Alexander, *The Cans of Forest* (English/Japanese version), Epic, 2017.**

ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト/Popoki Peace Project

## 大槌町活動報告会

Report meeting on Otsuchi activities

ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクトは、2005年より身体と感性と想像力を使って平和を創造する活動をしている団体です。2011年からは、岩手県大槌町を訪れて「友情物語」という活動を行っています。

このたびは2018年2月9日から2月12日までの4日間滞在させていただいた大槌町での活動報告会を行います。大槌町のことやポーポキの活動について話し合えればと思います。ご興味がありましたら、どうぞお越しいただければ幸いです。

Popoki Peace Project is an organization emphasizing use of the body, senses, and imagination in creating peace through workshops and other activities from 2005. Since 2011, we have visited Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture and done activities of Popoki Friendship Story.

Between 9 and 12 February this year we stayed at Otsuchi-cho and did activities. We will report about these activities in Otsuchi. We are looking forward to telling and talking about Otsuchi-cho and Popoki activities. If you are interested in our activities, you are welcome to join us at our report meeting on Otsuchi activities!

日時/Date : 2018年4月21日(土) 15:00~17:00 (14:30会場・open)

場所/Venue : 神戸学生青年センター Kobe Student Youth Center

神戸市灘区山田町3-1-1 Nada-ku Yamada-cho 3-1-1 Tel.078-851-2760

参加費/Fee : 無料 Free

言語/Language : 日本語/英語 Japanese/English

主催/ : ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト Popoki Peace Project

(お問い合わせ・お申込み/ Information and Reservations  
[ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com))



会場地図 MAP



ユネスコチェア 連携機関

- Gadjah Mada University (インドネシア)
- MERCY Malaysia (マレーシア)
- National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (台湾)
- National Women's Education Center (NWECC) (日本)
- Network for International Development Cooperation, Thammasat University (タイ)
- University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) (マレーシア)

# 神戸大学 ユネスコチェア キックオフシンポジウム

ジェンダーや脆弱性に配慮した減災対策  
Gender and Vulnerability in Disaster Risk Reduction Support

2018.4.6 FRI.  
13:00 - 17:00

神戸大学 瀧川記念学術交流会館 大会議室  
同時通訳有り

• アクセス

電車・バス→  
阪急電鉄「六甲」駅、  
JR「六甲道」駅、  
阪神電鉄「御影」駅から  
神戸市バス36系統  
「鶴甲団地」行に乗車、  
「神大文理学部前」下車



1995年の阪神・淡路大震災を経験した神戸大学では、災害時にジェンダーの問題、弱者の問題が日常よりも一層大きな問題となり、被災者・支援者に影響することを学び、その観点からの学術的発信や被災者支援などをしてきました。この経験をもとに、神戸大学のユネスコチェア事業は、国内外の連携機関と経験や研究の成果を共有しつつ、すべての人にとって安全安心な世界をつくるための研究・教育を行います。

プログラム

- 12:30 受付開始
- 13:00 合唱 「しあわせ運べるように」神戸大学附属中等教育学校 コーラス部 有志  
連携機関所在国の災害および災害援助の紹介
- 13:30 開会挨拶 神戸大学長 武田 廣
- 13:40 来賓挨拶 文部科学省 国際統括官 川端和明氏 (予定)
- 13:55 来賓挨拶 ユネスコ 男女共同参画局長 S.G. Corat氏
- 14:10 来賓挨拶 ユネスコ 地球科学防災課プロジェクト・コーディネータ 福井武夫氏
- 14:25 事業説明 神戸大学男女共同参画担当理事 内田一徳
- 14:40 休憩
- 15:00 パネルディスカッション  
(コーディネーター：神戸大学男女共同参画推進室長 アレキサンダー ロニー)  
パネリスト：ユネスコチェア連携機関代表者
- 16:30 功労者表彰
- 16:45 閉会挨拶 神戸大学男女共同参画担当理事 内田一徳
- 17:00 懇談会 神戸大学瀧川記念学術交流会館 食堂



文部科学省国際統括官  
日本ユネスコ国内委員会事務総長  
川端和明氏



ユネスコ  
男女共同参画局長  
Saniye Gülsel Corat氏



ユネスコ  
自然科学局 環境・地球科学部 地球科学防災課  
プロジェクトコーディネーター  
福井武夫氏

お問い合わせ・お申し込み先

国立大学法人 神戸大学 男女共同参画推進室

E-Mail : gnrl-kyodo-sankaku@office.kobe-u.ac.jp / TEL: 078-803-5471

※参加希望の方は、事前に【氏名・所属・連絡先・懇親会参加可否】をご連絡ください



# Authors Live

Free  
Admission

Sun., April 29, 2018  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Bar Iznt, Sannomiya, Kobe  
<http://iznt.net>

- \* Four Authors reading
- \* Mingling afterwards
- \* Info: <http://jaredangel.com>  
[angel@jaredangel.com](mailto:angel@jaredangel.com)



Ronni Alexander  
Professor, Kobe University  
Reading selection from the *Popoki Peace Book* series  
[alexroni@kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:alexroni@kobe-u.ac.jp)



Peter Mallett  
Winner, Writers in Kyoto Writing Contest (2016)  
Reading 'Sunset for Dolores' from the anthology  
*Eternal* (Hammond House 2017)



Deborah Iwabuchi  
Japanese-English translator, Minamimuki Translations, Ltd  
Reading "Tomosui" by Nobuko Takagi translated by Deborah  
[www.minamimuki.com](http://www.minamimuki.com) // [deborah@minamimuki.com](mailto:deborah@minamimuki.com)



Elaine Lies  
Reuters Correspondent  
Reading from a collection of flash fiction

# Popoki in Print

"Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival," Kobe YMCA News No.652, July/August 2017, p.3

- 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](http://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)
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- 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
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- '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 (No longer available)
- '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](mailto: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](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





## *What Popoki means to Me*

Bashirniyan

For me, Popoki is a symbol of positive peace that doesn't harm other people's peace. Popoki is a symbol of happiness that everyone can share with each other. Popoki is a symbol of nondiscrimination that makes us feel we all are equal. Popoki is a symbol feeling of the freedom that a bird has during flying in the sky or a whale swimming in the middle of the ocean. Popoki is a symbol of feeling secure and is associated with friendship, but not enmity. Popoki is a symbol of feeling safe during the time of disasters. Popoki is a symbol of hope that inspires someone not to give up in life. Popoki is a symbol of feeling satisfaction that comes from feeding someone who is in need of food but can't afford to get it. Popoki is a symbol of love towards the haters. Popoki is a symbol of a smile that helps others to smile. Popoki is a symbol of how you feel when you do what you like to do so that you have a peaceful mind.

I have a peaceful mind when I feel, achieve, or am able to do the abovementioned. Especially, I feel peace when I have chance do something that I like. I like to play guitar and sing when I want to have a peaceful mind regardless of language as I believe that music is universal. Painting natural beauty helps me to achieve peace. Painting a sailing ship on a lonely sea or splashing waves on the rocks or a glowing moon above the ocean helps me to have a peaceful mind although I am not a professional at all.



As I believe that part of Popoki's peace journey started with painting with different colors and thinking about peace through them, it is important to see and learn about peace through art by questioning ourselves how we can have peace that is desired for everyone.

So, how about you? What does Popoki mean to you when you think about peace? Do you think that our thoughts and actions might make some difference and lead us to a peaceful world? I believe that Popoki gives as a platform to think about it.

## PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

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

### How to purchase Popoki's books 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.

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