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It's still April, but May is just around the corner. In Kobe, lots of flowers are blooming and there is green everywhere! Popoki is trying his best to go outside and enjoy the spring

## Popoki's Hot News!



### COMING SOON!

Sunday, 1 July, is Nada Challenge!

Every year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Kobe University students and Nada-ku residents have worked together to hold this festival. Popoki will have a booth with sales and games, and a Popoki Friendship Story Exhibit. Chiffon-san from Otsuchi-cho will join us, too!

### Popoki Stamps!

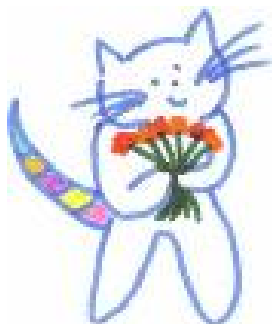
Popoki's friend made these unique postage stamps for him – the only ones in the world!



### Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Ito-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "Peace might be when after an event, everyone who was involved gathers with some food and they reflect on the event and talk with one another."

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 (at) gmail.com) !



## Popoki and friends in Otsuchi Part 2

Continued from the last month, we will report about our journey to Otsuchi-cho. In this issue, we will introduce the latter half, from February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Third day in Otsuchi with Popoki and friends

#### Kamishibai: Popoki Story-telling

Ari-pan-nyan

On the third day in Otsuchi, we had a surprise for everyone! We had a story-telling event about Popoki called Kamishibai. However, on those days, many Otsuchi children were caught by flu so they could not go out in the cold winter weather.

During the exhibition in MAST, we showed a Popoki picture story show. At first, we wondered



whether anyone would stop and look at our show, but we started and someone looked at our show seriously. Another one who came shopping stopped to look our show. Especially, I feel impressed by three high school students who visited our kamishibai. I wondered whether our story was too childish for them, but they stopped and listened to our story seriously. I understood the power of Popoki which all ages became friends.

Angginyan and I were the first ones who did Kamishibai. I read the Japanese version of Popoki story and Angginyan read the English version. We read the story loudly, cheerfully, and with full expressions! We also made some funny faces and voices too.

We had three kamishibai sessions that day. The second Kamishibai was done by Agnesnyan and me. And the third kamishibai was read by Ishinonyan and Andrinyan.



### Fourth Day

#### Ito-san tour review

Ishino-nyan

In Otsuchi, an electric pole with the upper 3 meters broken was still left as it had been that day. You can imagine that a ship, a car or a building was carried by the tsunami and hit the pole so it broke. You can understand that the ground was completely at the bottom of the ocean. Even so, the ground where we stood when we went to see the pole had been filled and raised. All the people who know the tsunami say that it was not just seawater, but swallowed many things on the land and carried them along with it. It may be that you think that the sea and water are hateful. But people here live in this town.

The center of the town after the reconstruction is a building in the location of the old community center. Originally this was a place was called "shachi", but it is supposed to be named "Oshatchi" as a new name. There are too many people who lost their place in this town. There are too many people who have been forced to live in places far away from their hometown. When they come back, I hope that this town is rebuilding as their town rather than the town they do not know.



## Shake Hand

### Agnesnyan



Before leaving Otsuchi on February 12<sup>th</sup>, there was one more event that we did with Otsuchi Obachan Club, which is shake hand. In the shake hand we gathered with the obachans and make dolls in the form of salmon. We are given basic form of salmon and also tools and materials for making the dolls. We are welcomed to make salmon creations according to our imagination. Salmon has a philosophy that as far as he goes elsewhere, he will return to his home. We are very happy to make our salmon look beautiful. Shake Hand is also accompanied by a tea ceremony, eating a snack together and chatting with each other intimately. As in the ochakko event, the obachan are also very interested in Indonesia. One Obachan is very curious about the hijab and asks some questions about it. Andri-San also plays video about Gadjah Mada University and Yogyakarta City. When we finished decorating the salmon we put the salmon in plastic wrap, writing down our name, address and also what price we wanted on the paper inside it. After the shake hand was over, it was time for us to leave Otsuchi. We went to Kamaishi to wait for the bus that will take us to Ikebukuro, Tokyo. It is hard to leave Otsuchi, a beautiful area full of warm hearts.

That is all of our report. Through the journey, we realized a lot of things, and these things made us think about a lot of things. We will continue to make efforts to develop friendship with people in Otsuchi-cho.



## Participating in the "Pictures and Picture Books and Medical Care and Disaster Pot Luck Party"

Mizuhonyan

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, the "Pictures and Picture Books and Medical Care and Disaster Pot Luck Party" was held at Nada Kumin Hall. It was a fine day like spring. There were many parts to the program: Ronni Alexander read a picture-card story called, "Popoki, What is feeling safe?"; Kimie Teshigawara led a session of drawing "feeling safe" using pastels; and photographer Yoko Ito exhibited photos of Otsuchi-cho from the time of the tsunami to the present; and a symposium on "Thinking about feeling safe from the Great East Japan Earthquake." I participated in a symposium. Dr. Mitimata,



a pediatrician from Otsuchi-cho, spoke about "our response to the 3/11 tsunami". Photographer Yoko Ito spoke about "the reason I continue to photograph the aftermath of the disaster." Kaori Hayashi, a 5th grader and a member of the Kansai Network for the rights of the child, spoke about children's rights. Satoshi Ariyama, an elementary school teacher, spoke about his disaster volunteer activities while a student. Hiroshi

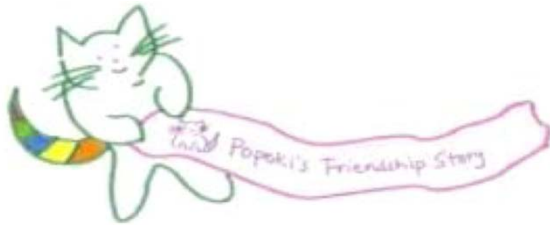
tenning to the panelists, we had group discussions about "the meaning of a safe society." The participants differed in age, background, disaster experience and occupation, but they were able to discuss and learn from one another. For example, a "safe society" depends on a person's age or situation. For a child, it might mean having adults s/he can trust, and for a parent it might be a society that puts the safety of children first. It might be feeling like one has a place, or having people that one can talk to openly. Through the discussion it became clear that connection and communication with others is important.

We only had 15 minutes for discussion, but I hope that we



will have more opportunities and will be able to expand our circle of connection through thinking about "a safe society".





## **\*Popoki's Interview\***

**Kiyonyan**

**Interviewee: Hiroshi Oe**

At the “Drawing and Picture Books and Medical Care and Disaster Pot Luck Party”

Date: 2018/03/17 Venue: Nada Kumin Hall

This party was, like its name, made up of various events. One was a series of mini lectures. Five people gave talks, and I interviewed one of them, Hiroshi Oe.

One story that he told caught my attention so first I will introduce his story. Next, I will share his interview. Actually it is a famous story, but I did not know that. It has also been made into a very moving picture book. Here is a brief version of it. It is a story of a Japanese doctor who was sent to Nepal in 1962. The doctor thought that the people who came to the hospital were still relatively well patients. Those who were seriously ill could not come to the hospital. After realizing this, he went to visit patients living in remote areas, walking for several days in the mountains. However, because he also had to work at the hospital, he was not always able to go visit to patients in the mountains.

At such times, a young man carried an old woman to the hospital for treatment. He did this over and over, and did not accept any payment. He just said a phrase in Nepali that translates to English as, “helping one another” or “living together”.

I understood this to mean that people should help each other when times are tough. Oe-san ended his talk by suggesting that not only under abnormal circumstances such as disasters, but also in our usual every lives, it is important to do something to support each other and that it is important to understand that we are not alone.



### **Interview**

Q1 : Why did you participate in this party?

Ronyan asked me to come.

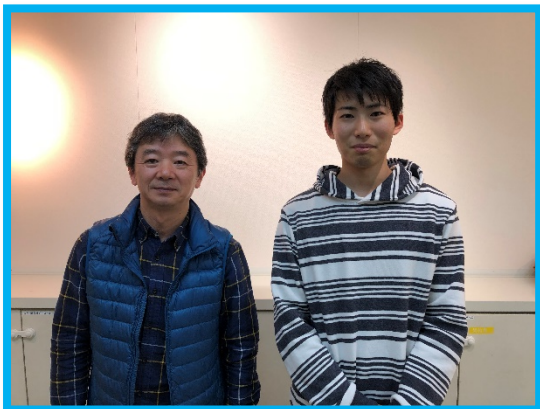
Q2 : What is safe and secure to you?

“Connection” means connecting with others.

We have a lot of encounters for connection.

With friends, family, coworkers....

You are not alone, and you can be just as you are..



Q3 : Are there things you learned or thought about from disasters like the Great East Japan and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquakes?

Disasters are different from our usual lives, but I think they are a microcosm of our everyday lives. That is because there is a tendency to leave people who are in weak positions (elderly, pregnant women, children, etc.) for later and often those people are excluded from large communities.

This is true of disaster shelters too, and I always feel it and know it to be true. I have been to many places within and outside of Japan, and what I have learned from meeting people and connecting with them is that sharing with people and living together means living together in peace. It is of course possible to learn from that experience and put those lessons into action. But I think that in order to make certain that people in weak positions are not excluded from communities at times of disaster is to be aware of diversity on an everyday basis.

Q4 : What do you think can be done at times of disaster so that small children and their mothers can feel and be safe?

Like today's interesting experimental program, I think it is important to share lots of different kinds of information with different people. The reason is that in their everyday lives, they live very differently. Mothers who are at home with their children become a bit separated from society. And society does not know much about those mothers and children. They don't know about each other. So at times of disaster, if they are suddenly put together it can result in panic. So it is important to prevent that from happening.

Q5 : Do you have expectations for, or things you want from young people in their twenties?

Everyone has potential, and there are things they can do.

It doesn't matter if it is in Japan or abroad, but it is important to be involved in something and challenge yourself. There are so many new things to experience, and what happens tomorrow is sum of what you build today. I want youth to be positive and to believe in themselves.

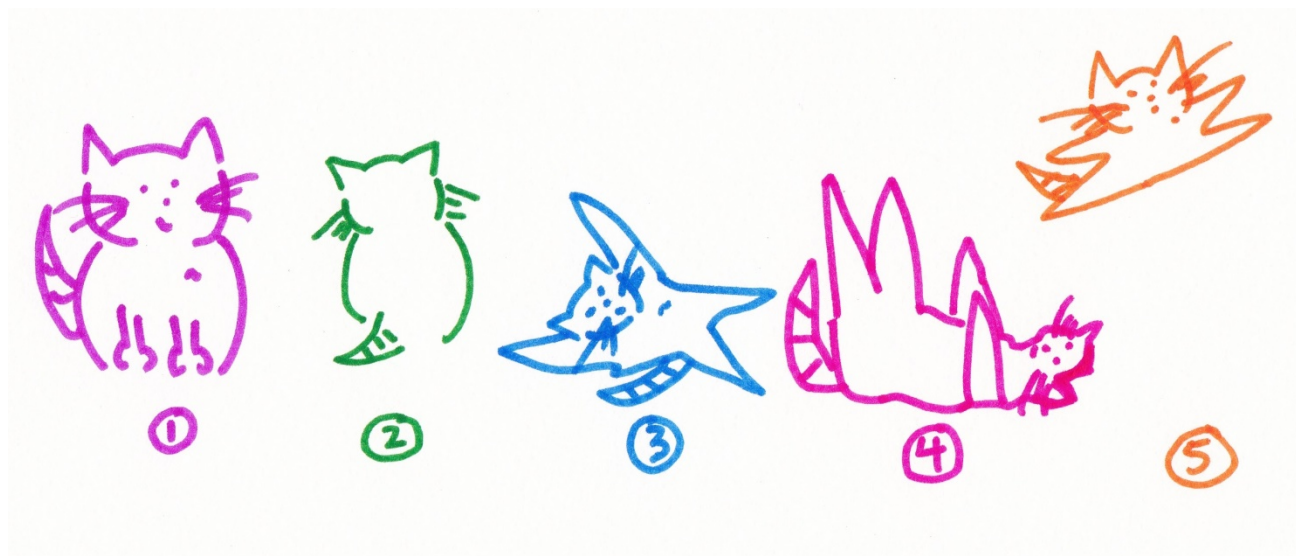
Q6: Finally, how did you feel about this event today?

I felt that I was given a place to meet and connect with people. I got to see old friends, some of them I had met because of disaster. It was a really good experience today.



# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 119 This month's theme is taking a break!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now take a break? Or turn your back? Try sitting facing in the opposite direction from your usual position and enjoy the view.
3. Next, lie down on your back and stre---tch!
4. Finally, raise your arms, legs and tail and shake 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: 2018.5.30 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai (Rokkomichi)

4.29 17:30-19:30 "Author's Live" Ronyan reading in English from Popoki's books. Venue: Bar Iznt, <http://iznt.net> Free. (See p.8)

6.2 Kio University "Peace and Health Workshop" with Popoki

7.1 Popoki @ Nada Challenge!!!

7.14 Popoki @ kodomono no sato!

8.6 08:00 ~ Popoki's Hiroshima Day Skype

8.6 P.M. Popoki Peace workshop at the Seminar on Education for International Understanding and for Development 2018

From Popoki's friends:

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



# 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

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- "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)
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- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper)
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- FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
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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
- '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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- 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
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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)
- *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)
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- "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*

Kiyonyan

My Popoki is relationships

It has been four years since I joined Popoki Peace Project. There are still some many things to discover. I find something new whenever I join Popoki activities.

I'm glad to have been able to meet many new people through Popoki. I'll explain why I feel that way. In 2017, I had to study for a national exam and could not participate at all for a year. Then, in March 2018, I came back to Po-kai. Even though I had been away for such a long time, everyone greeted me warmly, and I was very happy.



The other day, we held the "Potluck" event at Nada Ku-min Hall. I was able to meet new people, and reconnect with old friends and acquaintances. I really felt happy to have met Popoki.



There is another reason, too. Recently, I had a chance to see a friend with whom I had gone to Otsuchi. Now she is busy working and not able to attend Po-kai. When I saw her after such a long time, the year of separation made no difference, and we talked about many things. It made me very happy.

So I like Popoki a lot and want to try hard for Popoki. From now on, I'll participate in Popoki's activities as a working person rather than as a student. I will think about my work from a different perspective and hope to help others to learn to like Popoki, just like me.

## 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)

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU FROM  
POPOKI!!