



Happy New Year 2019
Year of the wild pig
希望、笑顔と平和の一年となりますように！

May it be a year of hope, smiles and peace!
Thanking you for your continued support in the coming year!
Popoki Peace Project

Popoki's Resolutions for 2019!

1. Take positive action to create a non-violent and peaceful world!
2. Treasure our friends and all of our encounters, make new friends, learn from one another, and strengthen our connections!
3. Continue our work to support people affected by the 2011 East Japan disaster and other disasters!
4. Continue our work on peace and health, safety/security and feeling safe!
5. Be aware and interested in the world we live in, close and far away. Share our thoughts, feelings and impressions with one another and the world!
6. Bring a little bit of joy into the lives of those around us and share our joy!

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming soon!

"Popoki the Cat and the Banner that has Circled the World!"
Seaside Town Mast 2F 2019.2.9-10
Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture

"Drawing workshop with Picture Book Author, Ronyan -
Picture book character Popoki and his international friends!"

2019.2.11 13:00~15:00 @ Ofuntao disaster prevention tourism alternating
current center



Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, *Angiinyan*, sent the following piece
of peace: "I am at peace every time I see shades of green,
especially from trees and plants.

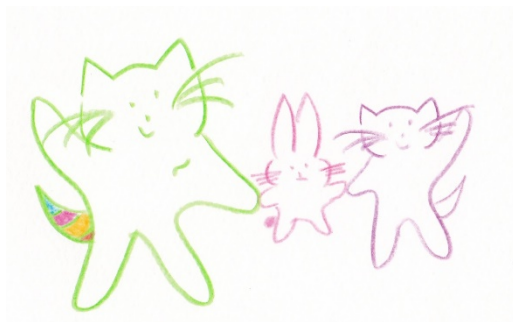
I see life and feel soothed. The earth would be so dull and
lifeless without this color."

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's new friend

Recently, Popoki has gained a new
friend who has been attending his
events. Her name is Koume, and
everyone loves her! If you haven't
yet met her, please look forward to it. I'm sure you
will become friends, too.



Thoughts on 17 January 2019

Ronyan

January 17 comes for the 24th time
This year my body is not in Kobe
But my heart is there

Even from far away,
Inside me, and inside so many people
That day flows on and on
like the ocean that stretches out to the horizon

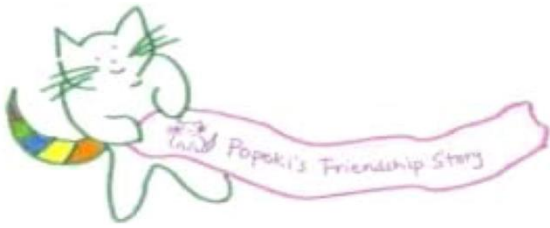
Oh, you're OK!
I don't know....
No, it's hopeless....

Love. Laugh. Cry. Live.
On that day, I found what is most important.
But sometimes I forget.
So on this day, I look back and remember.

I remind myself.
And want to share with you, too.
Love. Laugh. Cry. Live.
Connect. Today. Tomorrow. Always.
And never forget.



*17 January is the anniversary of the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.



Popoki's Interview

Interviewee: Lauren

Interviewer: Lanyan

Kobe University UNESCO Chair Summer Program brought together students and professors from several countries, and Popoki enjoyed meeting every one of them. This time we talked to one the students from Taiwan – Lauren, who participated in the program.

1. Please tell us about yourself and your work.

I'm Lauren, a student at National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan.

2. Why did you decide to take part in the UNESCO Summer Program?

Last summer vacation I passed an English course selection. Its topic was about gender and vulnerability under disaster risks. After the selection, I started to do lots of reports for it and got a little bit of interest from then on.



3. When and how did you meet Popoki? What impressions did you get about Popoki's work?

The very first time I met Popoki was in the UNESCO Summer Program at UGM. I hadn't really assisted people from the disaster. But there was a thing I'd like to share. When we had the course in UGM, we all went to the village to

visit those victims whose houses were destroyed by the eruption of a volcano and so they were forced to leave their own houses. They actually suffered a lot of pain even some of them still want to move back, but all they could do is stay away. The mental healing needed time to recover and I believe that Popoki would help this kind of sadness around the world.

4. Now when you have been studying about disasters for a while, what is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the current disasters around the world?

Disaster happens all the time. We can't take it as unusual. We need to stand together. It's difficult when we are alone but it's not when we are more than one. I remember the last report that I did in Taiwan. It was a case about the brave woman, Ms. Chen. She lost her husband during the gas

explosion in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Everyone was so worried about her. But she stood up with her son and finished the last work her husband hadn't finished before he died. Most of us know the fragile side of victims but they were sometimes more strong than we think. Those victims can hold the other fragile victim's hand with Popoki to stand up again. Finally, this kind of relation will warm through the world.



In December, Satonyan and Ronyan went to Otsuchi-cho. There are new buildings going up and the new Oshacchi Center is open. And there was lots of snow on top of the mountain! We're looking forward to going again in February with the other nyans!



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 128

This month's theme is stretching our lower back and legs!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand up. Cross your legs so that your left foot is on the outside of your right foot and bend forward. Can you touch your toes and count to 20? Come up slowly, and try crossing your legs the other way.
3. Now for a nice big stretch! Spread your arms and legs, and bring your chest forward. Take a nice, deep breath!
4. Finally, make a triangle. Spread your legs, keeping them straight, and spread your arms. Keeping your back straight, can you touch your ankle? How about on the other side?
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: 2019.1.30 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai (near JR Rokkomichi)!

2018.2.7-12 Popoki in Otsuchi and Ofunato!

From Popoki's friends:

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

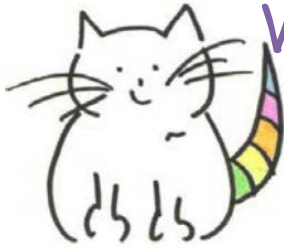
Popoki in Print * Back issues of Popoki News:



http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html

"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
- R. Alexander. (2010) "The Popoki Peace Project: Creating New Spaces for Peace in Demenchonok, E., ed. *Philosophy after Hiroshima*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp.399-418
- 省窓: Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (*YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper*)
- Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en 2010.3.15
- FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- "Human Rights, Popoki and Bare Life." *In Factis Pax Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice* Vol.3, No.1, 2009, pp.46-63 (<http://www.infactispax.org/journal/>)
- Nishide, Ikuyo. "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Lecture by Ronni Alexander." "PPSEAWA" (Pan-Pacific and south-East Asia Women's Association of Japan), No.63, 2009.12, p.5
- 'Friendship' No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- 'Not for But With...' No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- 'Nada' notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- 'Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.' *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- 'Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,' *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- 'New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2*' (Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- 'Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.' (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
- 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- 'Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,' *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
- Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese (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
- "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/>



What Popoki Means to Me

Urunyan

I had the chance to talk with a woman from Fukushima, who has two teenage daughters. She told me all about what happened to her family after the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster. Her family had just bought a new house before the disaster. But her husband made up his mind to leave home and move to Yamanashi Prefecture, where he found a job, because they were so afraid about the radiation effects on their daughters. But in the new place their daughters were ill-treated, so they were forced to move again and started to live in our city 6 years ago. Recently they bought another house here, and of course they've got double loans without any compensation from the Government or Tokyo Electric Power Company.

She told me with tears and also I just listened to her story with tears, feeling anger toward the Government and Tokyo Electric Power Company. I can't forget her words. "Why have people in Fukushima had such terrible experiences, when we've done nothing wrong?" At that time I had no idea what to do, only feeling that I couldn't be of any help to her.

But when I read Popoki's Newsletter, I found that I just could stand by her side and have sympathies with her. Thank you, Popoki!



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!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>

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THANK YOU

FROM

POPOKI!

