

# Popoki



Newsletter

No.165 2019.5.27

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May! It is almost rainy season. While the weather is still good, Popoki likes to play outside. After a good session of playing, ice cream tastes wonderful! Do you like ice cream, too? What is your favorite flavor?

## Popoki's Hot News!

Coming soon!

"Nada Challenge 2019"

2019.6.30 @ Togakawa Park

Please join us for a day of fun!

Popoki will have a booth, games and an exhibit.

Yukiko Esashi from Ohanashikororin will join us, too!

Hope to see you there!



Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Yurikanyan, sent the following piece of peace: (I feel peace) "when I hear the laughter of children." 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) !



Our meeting, “Hyogo Kyouku Meeting to Elimiate Discrimination against Sexual Minorities in Hanshin” was held on Saturday, April 13th at Koto Church in Nishinomiya.

In 1998, discriminating words against LGBT people were spoken at the United Church of Christ in Japan. The Hyogo Kyouku (district) standing committee considered it to be a serious and important problem, especially because church is a place where people should be at ease and feel safe. Since then we have been studying and discussing this problem, and have organized various kinds of seminars.



Through these programs, we found it is very hard to change our way of thinking, and recognized that what we had all been taught was not always right. We also knew it is important to keep on studying to be free from our own established ideas and to learn to accept difference and other identities. We also found it is very difficult to understand others not by knowledge but by our mind.

Ronni-san easily broke through our mental barrier by showing us a Popoki *kamishibai* story. Then she talked about her own story and explained about our subject. This help us to sort out our confusion and deepened our understanding. All people have the right to live in peace, but discrimination exists. Why? One reason is because national and social regulations and rules control gender, sex, and sexuality. There are many countries that want to be peaceful countries, but they cannot realize their goal yet. Ronni-san continued to explain the meaning of the letters LGBTQIA (so-called sexual minorities). And she talked about SOGI (Sexual orientation and gender identity), too. She clarified that LGBTQIA refers to subjects (who), while SOGI refers to characteristics or position (what) that



we all have. Each explanation was easy to understand, so I could imagine various people and their situations.

Is Japanese society kind to LGBTQIA people? This report was a little bit sad. At the office, discrimination and prejudice still exist. And what is more, we (those of us who are involved and concerned) do not have enough knowledge or information. This is true even for LGBTQIA people themselves. This was shown by statistics. At school or at the office, often they cannot find a person to whom they can talk, and worry about the reactions if they come out. They have no room to talk freely about their sexuality, Ronni-san commented.

Finally, we tried to make *kamishibai* stories starring Popoki! Popoki is crying. Why? Groups with 4 or 5 members each imagined the reason, identified the problem and then thought about how to solve it. We made our stories, each with five pages and pictures. Every participant thought a lot, and we all talked to each other. Then we shared our masterpieces. It was a serious topic, but doing it was enjoyable.

I think that we, Christian people, should stand on the side of minorities, hope that everyone lives in peace, and respect every individual and their background. Compared to the outside society, Christian society is quite a narrow society. Even gender bias, we have not yet gotten rid of it. We have a lot to change in the Church as soon as possible. When we are faced with a decision or at a loss, we consider “What Would Jesus Do?” By meeting to Popoki, I will remember “What Would Popoki Do?”





## Popoki's Tohoku Trip (3)

Dinyan

In the past two issues of “Popoki News” we have reported the first and the second days of our Tohoku trip. And this is the report of the third day by Dinyan.

On the third day, which was February 10<sup>th</sup>, we mainly stayed at MAST in Otsuchi. In the morning, we were on the second floor of MAST where the exhibition was, and did the preparation for the story telling activity which will be held in the afternoon. We talked with people and asked them if they were interested in the activity and also asked them what does peace mean to them. The most interesting part of asking this question is that there is no specific accurate answer. They differ from



person to person. And some children did not understand the meaning of peace (though we adults sometimes also do not), so we asked them what makes them feel comfortable or what they like. Then we got the answers of “strawberry cake”, “pillow”, “wearing a hat” and so on.

In the afternoon, we moved to the first floor of MAST for story telling. The stories we chose came from the pages of Popoki's Peace Book and Popoki's Friendship Story. We did one round but since most



of our audience was young children, the second time we used a different story. We prepared our own version of the “Gingerbread Man,” because we thought it might make the words easier for them to be understood.

And this was also the last day of our staying in Otsuchi. When we back to prepare our stuff we all felt a bit sad to be leaving. Thank you, Otsuchi! Hope to see you again!

## Report Meeting on Popoki's Otsuchi and Ofunato Activities in 2019

Author: Aasthanyan

Japanese translations: Nagisanyan

Photo credit: Satonyan

On April 20, 2019, we organized a report meeting at the Kobe Student Youth Center to share and discuss Popoki's activities conducted between February 8-11, 2019 in Otsuchi and Ofunato city. This event was open to Popoki members (past, present, and future) and the general public. Overall, this meeting was organized with the following two main objectives:

- a) to share our experiences from Otsuchi and Ofunato city with the audience, and
- b) to introduce Popoki, Popoki Peace Project and Popoki Friendship Story Project to prospective Popoki members.

The meeting started with Nagisanyan, Dinyan, Lanyan, Satonyan, Ronyan and I introducing ourselves, which was followed by Ronyan introducing Popoki Peace Project and Popoki Friendship Story. After that, Lanyan gave a brief synopsis of the disasters in Otsuchi and Ofunato. Although we experienced some technical difficulties during the beginning, Lanyan's friends came to our rescue and saved the day. Soon after they solved the issue, Nagisanyan, Dinyan, Lanyan, and I made a brief presentation about the exhibit, workshops, and other activities we conducted in the two cities and shared our photos in the form of a video with the audience. I think the audience enjoyed the video. Even 8-month-old nyan reacted to the *Baby Shark* song in the video...

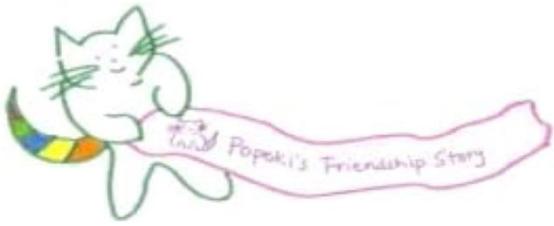
While planning for the report meeting, Nagisanyan, Dinyan, Lanyan and I realized how difficult it was for us to express what we experienced in Otsuchi and Ofunato. We really wanted to share what we felt and experienced while we were there. Therefore, we decided to perform a Kamishibai during the report meeting from Popoki's picture books, which we performed in Otsuchi and Ofunato. We then asked the audience to join us. This way, the report meeting was participatory (not just one-directional) and the participants got a sense of what Popoki Peace Project activities are like. We tried our best to conduct the meeting, do the presentation, and Kamishibai in English and Japanese. We received great response from the audience for that. Like us, during the audience Kamishibai, almost everyone read their page in Japanese as well as English.

After the Kamishibai, the six of us answered the following reflection questions that we had prepared for the meeting. Satonyan addressed what Popoki's role was in Tohoku support activities. Lanyan said what she wants to do, from now, with Popoki for disaster support. I described the trip to Otsuchi and Ofunato in a word and answered why I picked that word. Ronyan expressed what she learnt from the trip. Nagisanyan said what she thought was the difference between living in Kobe and disaster struck areas in Tohoku. Finally, Dinyan talked about who impressed her the most during our trip.

Next, we switched to the friendship story cloth. Before we asked everyone to join us to look through and draw on the friendship story cloths that were exhibited in the room, Nagisanyan, Dinyan, Lanyan and I talked about a picture each from the cloths we took to Otsuchi and Ofunato and the associated story. This section of the meeting was incorporated with audience comments, feedback and Q&A.

There were many unplanned but happy additions during the report meeting. There was an origami Popoki corner, where the creator of the origami provided face-to-face tutorial to interested participants. Popoki's old friend dropped by after the meeting bearing news that he will soon become a father...All in all, it was a great report meeting, which ended with thank you remarks from Ronyan.





## \*Popoki's Interview\*

**Lanyan**

In February, Popoki and some of his friends went to the beautiful city of Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture, where they met wonderful people and had a chance to spend some time talking to them and sharing their thoughts on disaster and implications it caused to the people's lives. One of the new friends we met was Tanaka Kimiyo, who kindly shared her story with us and told us about the 2011 disaster in Ofunato and how people struggled to overcome it.

### **Please tell us about yourself**

I was born in Fukushima a long time before the Nuclear Accident happened, and my family moved to another part of Japan when I was still a child. Several years before the Tohoku Earthquake in 2011, I moved to Ofunato city as it was considered to be unpopulated. I was in Ofunato when the earthquake and tsunami occurred in March 2011.

### **Could you please share your story about disaster and how the community was overcoming the challenges it caused**

Fortunately, I didn't lose either family members or my house at the earthquake and tsunami. Right after it, I joined a volunteer group to help out the local people. I was impressed how many people not just from over Japan but from outside of the country, such as from Russia and Korea, came to our city and brought humanitarian aid and offered their hands to help the community to recover. I was personally working with these people and was responsible for separating the aid we received such as food and clothes into different piles so people who needed something could receive exactly what they lacked at that moment.



Tanaka san's drawing on one of the cloths Popoki brought to Ofunato. She drew a Japanese persimmon, which she loved when she was a child and lived in Fukushima.

### **What is the message you would like to share with Popoki and his friends?**

Although it could be dark and terrible times sometimes such as after the disaster in 2011, it is important to look for something positive out of it too. In my case, I was delighted to meet so many people from different countries and impressed by their kindness and understanding. That is why, when I heard that Popoki and his friends from different countries are coming to Ofunato to have an event, I was excited and looked forward to participate in it, and I am very grateful to have this chance to meet new people from other countries.

# POPOKI'S EASY POGA

## Lesson 132

This month's theme is core muscle training!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, lie on your stomach with your legs straight. Raise one leg, and then the other. Can you raise your tail, too?
3. Next, try slowly raising and lowering your leg while lying on your side. When you finish with one side, try the other. Do you want to try raising both legs at once?
4. Now, with your legs raised to about 45 degrees, slowly draw a circle with them going first to the right, and then to the left. Draw a circle with 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: 2019.6.17 Nada Yakuzaishikai 19:00~**

- 5.23- "Popoki, are you afraid of the sea? Lessons from Popoki's work for peace and safety with people in coastal communities" Keynote address at 2019 International Marine Culture Conference, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (Ronyan)
- 5.24 "Thinking about being safe, feeling safe and peace with Popoki" lecture and workshop @ NKUST, Taiwan. (Ronyan)
- 6.30 Nada Challenge! Togagaku Park, 10:00~16:00. Volunteers meet 9:00 at Popoki's booth. <https://nadachallenge.wixsite.com/nadachallenge> See p.9 too!
- 7.6 Popoki @ Kodomo no Sato!
- 7.30 Reading Popoki aloud @ Hatopoppo Nursery School!
- 8.2 or 5 Popoki at Kobe University Gender Equality Office Summer School

- 8.5 Popoki WS at the Seminar on Education for Living Together 2019, JICA Kansai
- 8.6 Popoki at MERCY Malaysia Conference, Kuala Lumpur!
- 8.9 Popoki's International Skype Conversation about Nuclear Issues!
- 8.18-30 Popoki @ UNESCO Chair Summer Program, Gadj Mada University, Indonesia
- 9.28 Seminar to discuss Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident refugees (tentative)
- 10.12 Peace and Health Workshop @ Hyogo University of Health Sciences  
14:00~16:00 (Satonyan)

**NADA CHALLENGE !**

**なだ 灘チャレンジ 2019 祭**

神戸大学の学生が中心になって  
地域のみなさんと作るお祭り、灘チャレンジ。  
阪神淡路大震災の復興祭としてはじまり、  
今年で25回目の開催です。

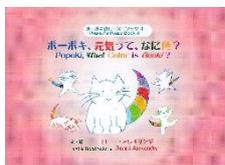
6/30(日)  
10:00~16:00  
場所:都賀川公園  
@togagawa park  
少雨決行 荒天中止

minigames  
booths, stage  
new project  
exhibition

子どもむけミニゲームにたくさんの模擬店、楽しいステージに  
会場にいる皆さんで行う新企画、灘区民ホールで行われる展示。  
これは楽しむしかない...! 6/29(土)には子どもたちとパレードをします!

〒657-8501  
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詳しくはこちらの  
QRコードからアクセス!



## Popoki in Print \* Back issues of Popoki News:



[http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)

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- 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)
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- 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
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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)
- *Kobe Shimbun* “Human Rights Declaration Exhibition Panels: 6 Local Hyogo Artists Illustrate all 30 Articles” 2008.10.8. p.10
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- 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

Kayonyan

It has been 20+years since I started living on Guam. The first thing I was surprised about here is that Guam people are prepared for any disasters, especially typhoons. We don't know when the typhoon will come, so people always store non-perishable food, water, gasoline, generators, batteries and a radio. In the last 10 years, we haven't had any big typhoons, but last year, we were faced with a huge typhoon (Yutu/Mangkhut). The people of Guam seem to remember what had happened before. They were instantly on the move, preparing for the worst.

On Guam, 24 hours before a typhoon hits, governments and schools are all shut down and the schools are opened for emergency shelters. 12 hours before the typhoon, all the businesses are to shut down. If your house isn't concrete, people are told to take shelter in a school or in concrete houses. Pregnant women are instructed to go to the hospital. The people who live in flood areas are encouraged to head to the shelters. People shut the aluminum or plywood shutters on all the windows (even on the doors!). When the typhoon is within 6 hours of landfall, no people are on the road and towns are extremely quiet. Some people are barbequing meat from the refrigerator that may go bad if the power is out. Some people are securing items outside and covering their electronics with garbage bags inside the house to prepare for flooding or leaking. I thought at first, "Why are people so paranoid?" However, I was totally wrong in my thinking and I was amazed at how much the people of Guam prepare for the worst of the disasters. I was ashamed to think of it lightly.

"Preparing is preventing." Even through storms with 200 m/h winds lasting 12 hours, Guam never has any deaths because they prepare for the worst case scenario. I learned this, living on Guam.

I hope we all can live in peace by preparing for any situation.



## 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: *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 outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. Write to us at [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) and we'll figure it out!

### 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 [ronniandpopoki@gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com)



***Contributions are always welcome!***

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

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