



Natural disasters like the typhoon in the Philippines are occurring frequently all over the world! Popoki is praying for everyone's safety from Kobe, where it is starting to get cold.

Popoki's Hot News!



POPOKI'S PEACE BOOK 3!



We are working on the publication of the third book in the Popoki's Peace Book series, *Popoki, What Color is Genki?* You can look forward to reading it early next year!

PIECES OF PEACE



One of Popoki's friends, Hayashi-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "When I stroll along neighborhoods where the smell of evening meals comes wafting, and when I look out the flickering lights from a veranda after a bath, I feel peace. Because I can find times and places for a good rest at these moments."

Please contribute a bit of peace! What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail.

POKPOKI AND FRIENDS ON RADIO!



Popoki and some of his friends were on the radio program "Beyond the Fence" on KPRG Radio Guam to discuss the military build-up on Guam. You can listen to them or download the podcast of Episode 165, "What is the color of Peace?" by clicking on <http://kprg.podbean.com/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING HELP!



Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake is getting a good reception, thanks to help from his friends. Please help to let more people know! More information about the book at: <http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari.html>

* You can purchase a copy at the Kobe YMCA!

Kobe YMCA International Cooperation Bazaar

Ari-pan-nyan

On 20 October, it was raining on and off since the morning, so we did not feel very energetic about going out anywhere. In spite of that weather, about a thousand guests visited the International cooperation bazaar at Kobe YMCA, which is a festival event held there once a year. This year, we, Popoki Peace Project, exhibited the cloths of the Popoki Friendship Story in the chapel.

The theme of the bazaar in this year was “Arigatou” (that means thanks in Japanese.) YMCA members chose that theme to be grateful that many people gather at Kobe YMCA and they can hold the bazaar. The building of Kobe YMCA is going to be torn down so it was the last bazaar there. In

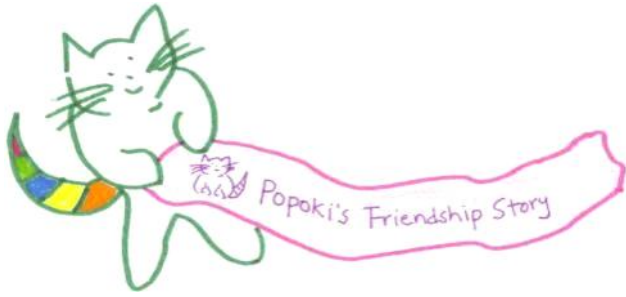


addition to the bazaar floor, there were food stands selling rice cakes, *oden*, and more, an international café managed by foreign students, and lots of other fun things to do. In the chapel where we exhibited, many people came to see and hear a report of YMCA in Thailand and a play about international cooperation on the stage. We also announced Popoki friendship story on the stage. This was why some people were interested in our cloths and drew some

pictures and handprints.

We hold Po-kai events in the Kobe YMCA building, so we are sorry the building will be torn down, too. However, we are thankful we could participate in the bazaar with the members of YMCA, and shared our gratitude. Thank you, Kobe YMCA, and please help us for a little more time.





Popoki's Interview

Guam: a mist of contradictions

Interview with Cara Flores-Mays, We Are Guahan

- Aastha Ranabhat



A group of Popoki's friends visited Guam last September with the intention to conduct a 10-day international fieldwork. Some of the main objectives of this fieldwork were to understand: a) how people in Guam felt about the relocation of the US Marines from Okinawa to Guam, b) issues and discussions concerning Guam's political status, especially Chamoru people's right to self-determination and c) the effects of colonization and war on Guam and its people. We came across and befriended people from many walks of life who helped us understand a range of perspectives on the above issues during this trip. We also had the opportunity to visit various sites of importance in Guam and learnt about Chamoru history and culture through these encounters. The fieldwork helped us identify some of the underlying unclear points and contradictions about political and cultural status on Guam. Some of them are briefly discussed below:

- The relocation of US Marines from Okinawa to Guam (a large part of the US military buildup on Guam) is something that was discussed and decided between the US and Japan. Guam has to live with this decision as an unincorporated organized territory of the United States even though it did not choose or have a part in this planning
- Almost a third of the island of Guam has remained military bases because of its strategic location in the Pacific. With the proposed military build-up the military land holding is expected to increase. Most people in Guam however have not been able to openly criticize the US military and the government, since many families on Guam have members in the military. Moreover, the US military is the second largest source of income in the island
- The people of Guam although US citizens do not have the same rights and benefits as citizens residing in the mainland. People of Guam are not allowed to vote for president. In fact, even their representative to the congress is a non-voting member. Military personnel from Guam also

receive fewer benefits than military personnel in the mainland.

- Guam is one of the 17 UN non-self-governing territories in the world. However, the people of Guam are not in unison on the notion of the indigenous Chamoru right to self-determination



Basically, we saw that Guam is a country blessed with natural beauty and rich Chamoru culture and heritage. Its Chamoru culture is believed to be the oldest civilization in Micronesia, which makes Guam the jewel of Micronesia. Unfortunately, this island is at risk of losing its resources, culture and land. Various parts of the island are barricaded by the military and not accessible to public. Other sites of natural and cultural significance to the people like Pagat are under discussion for military takeover as part of the build-up. Guam could therefore lose a lot of land if the proposed build-up is implemented, which could have an adverse effect on its principle industry, tourism. We also found that the Chamorus are at the verge of losing their language because of their unfortunate and complex history of colonization by the Spanish (1565-1898), the Japanese (1941-1944), and the Americans (1944 – present). Today only a handful of people in the island can speak and understand Chamoru. But, academics, students, grassroots activists, and even government officials in Guam are engaging in discussions and uniting and mobilizing to protect and defend their resources and their culture. ‘We are Guahan’ is one such grassroots organization that brings together likeminded individuals and groups concerned about Guam’s impending military build-up and the island’s future.

On September 10, 2013, we had the opportunity to meet Ms. Cara Flores-Mays, a member of ‘We are Guahan’ at the University of Guam. Below is a part of the correspondence we had with her:



Aastha: What are the major concerns associated with the impending military build-up in Guam?

Cara San: The three major issues associated with the proposed military buildup are: a) land taking, b) infrastructure (schools, water, power, hospitals, etc.), and c) culture.

Guam has a history of land taking by the US military. Signing the Organic Act legalized it. Today the US military occupies one-third of land in Guam and with the build-up some of the most beautiful, fertile land and areas with aquifers and fishing potential could be turned into bases, inaccessible to public. Military land taking is the reason why people in Guam have been disengaged with their land and why many Chamorus live below the national poverty line. **The US should therefore take no more land!**

The proposed buildup is also expected to lead to a 40% increase in the population of Guam. This would impact the island's civilian infrastructure such as housing, water supplies, power, schools, hospital and roads among other things since the military is not willing to spend outside the fence.

Finally, the build-up could also make homelessness, crime and other social tensions more eminent. And, 70 acres of coral reef could be destroyed to bring in aircraft carriers for the military. Mostly the buildup would water down our culture and establish us as a military community. **But, do we want to be a military community? Do we want the island to be just base?**

Sen Chan: Who thinks military build-up is a good idea?

Cara San: Debates and discussions about the US military is a 'touchy subject' in Guam. The community sees the military in two parts: a) our community people and b) state-side administrators. There are some in the community who think that the buildup is the only way Guam can be fixed. They think the buildup could lead to decent jobs and good homes, schools and hospitals. The rich, who can leave if things turn bad, also see the buildup as a savior. The federal officials see the problems associated with the build-up, but they only quietly oppose. The dominant voice in the island is that of the conservative white male. Discourses such as: **You owe it to the US! You're not smart if you oppose the bases!** are quite common. Even today indebtedness towards the Americans for saving the people of Guam from the Japanese can be observed. The younger generations however are losing this sentiment.

Akai San: In Okinawa, offenses committed by members of the US military are handled by the military. How about in Guam?

Cara San: In Guam some cases of offenses committed by the military end up in courts. However, some cases start and end with darkness; you don't clearly know how the case ends.

Alexander Sensei: In comparison to my previous visits to Guam I see growing interest in promoting Chamoru culture, heritage and language. Is that a general trend, or something among activists? What is happening in the movement to revitalize and reclaim Chamoru culture, language and identity?

Cara San: In Guam we're trying to redefine our culture and community. This attempt is important for us. We're trying to reconnect our children to our land and the ocean. Everyone is trying to learn Chamoru again. Chamoru is even being taught at schools, but it's not working. Therefore, various dance schools and charter schools are emerging with the belief that a model that mixes art with culture works. We are heading towards a slow revitalization.

Suzanka San: What does it mean to the US that Chamorus are trying to revitalize their culture?

Cara San: The US does not care. There is a section that looks like they are helping to revive the culture that they influenced, but it is not a sincere attempt that could make things right. As long as Guam is exploring its culture within the authority of the US, it's fine. Once the authority of the US is threatened, problems begin. In that sense, Guam is not a part of the US, but owned by it. The status of Guam is still a status of a colony. We did not make an educated choice to become Americans or a military community or lose our culture. We do not have control over our island's future.

The US basically does not want Guam to be so poor to revolt and it does not want it to be so rich to be independent!

Hirai Kun: Now the US has many advanced technologies for warfare. Won't the drones replace soldiers? Shouldn't there be fewer US bases and militaries in the world?

Cara San: The US needs bases because it needs visible presence to intimidate communities. Military bases are the US government's way of exercising empire without 'infringing sovereignty'. And, one of the reasons why bases like the ones in Guam exist is because the US does not have to deal with local governments and officials. Officials say, "Well, they have the legal right to establish bases and take public land without having to give us anything in return, so we might as well take what we're being offered for it"

The above interview and the field trip were extremely insightful and exposed us to the island's history (of war, colonization, liberation/oppression, and land taking) and unique Chamoru culture. We would therefore like to thank our friends in Guam for their hospitality, cooperation and affection. We support you and wish you luck with all your endeavors!



How about treating yourself to a chiffon cake?

Popoki's good friend Namiko Kobayashi lives in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture, one of the places devastated by the 11 March 2011 tsunami. After the disaster, she opened a café in a temporary shopping center, and makes wonderful chiffon cakes. She has just started taking long-distance orders, but perhaps not outside of Japan.

chiffon cake

店主・小林波子がころを込めて作り、お届けします。

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Popoki Peace Project <http://popoki.cruisejapan.com> ronniandpopoki(at)gmail.com

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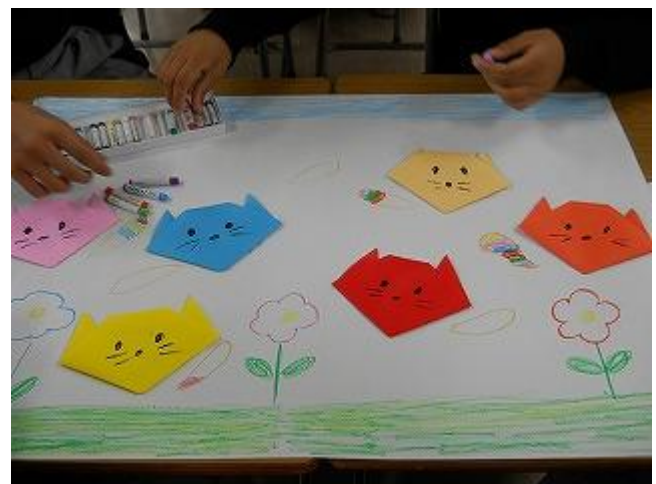
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Popoki at Hyogo Prefectural Aboshi High School

On 24 October, Ronyan and Satonyan went to Aboshi High School to conduct a peace education class. We received a lot of comments, some of which are below. The students were asked to write in English as well as Japanese. You can view a report on the Aboshi High School web site, too. http://www.hyogo-c.ed.jp/~aboshi-hs/news/2013/2013_10_24tokusyokusougou1/2013_10_24tokusyokusougou1.html

<p>To (ロニー・アキサダ)</p> <p>平和について改めて考えることができて良かったです。 自分たちにしか考えられないと思います。 楽しい講義をありがとうございました。</p> <p>It was good that I could think about peace some other time. I want to think for oneself well. Thank you for a pleasant lecture.</p>	<p>To (ロニー・アキサダさん)</p> <p>今回は網走高校に来たこと、 ありがとうございました。 ポプキが「少し恥ずかしかったけど、楽しかったです！」 初めての活動で緊張してみんな声が出せなかったり いろいろとめいわくかけたこともあったと思いますが さとうさんと二人で声をかけてくれて、 本当にありがとうございました。 平和について考える良い機会となりました。</p>
<p>To (ロニー・アキサダさん)</p> <p>今日はありがとうございました。 すごくたのしかったです。 とても勉強になりました。 講義を通して、日本は本当に平和で幸せな国なんだと 改めて感じました。 今日は本当にありがとうございました。</p>	<p>To (ロニー・アキサダさん)</p> <p>Thank you very much today. It was very fun. It was a good opportunity to think about peace today. I thought that Japan was peaceful country.</p>



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 66

This month's Poga is about stretching our backs and legs!

1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. OK, let's become cats! Get on your hands and knees, and stretching your back, stretch your head back. Raise your tail, too.
3. Now, round your back and bring it up, looking first to the right, and then left.
4. Next, round your back more and bring your head between your arms, looking at your stomach.
5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 66. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.



Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 12/18 Kobe YMCA 18:00- and then Ponenkai!!!

12.6-8 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho Workshop and Popoki Friendship Story Exhibit

12.18 Ponennkai! Kobe YMCA Rm.306 18:30~

2014.1.17 Popoki at Kobe Earthquake Exhibit, Kobe Citizens Gallery, Kobe City Hall (tentative)

2014.2.22 Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival. Kobe YMCA Rm. 301

Popoki's Friends

12.1 “With who do you want to live, and in what way? Changing views of families.” In Japanese at Liberty Osaka (Museum). 13:30-16:00. Fee: Free, but you must pay admission to the Museum (500 yen). Information: 06-6364-7677; e-mail: liberty.siteru@gmail.com

1.5-1.17 Linking Tohoku and Kobe with Kagawa Hiroshige's Giant Painting 13 days (closed 1/6 and 1/14). Venue: Design Creating Center KIITO, Kobe. Hours: 11:00~19:00. TEL: 078-325-2201 FAX: 078-325-2230 Email: info@kiito.jp

◆ **Especially 1.11 Dance Performance 'Rite of Spring' 13:00~13:40**

“From 3.11 to 1.17 ~ Young People Talk about Disaster and the Future” 14:00~17:00 Facilitators: Ronni Alexander, Murai Masakiyo, director, NGO Collaboration Center for Hanshin Quake Rehabilitation, Nishigaki Chiharu, Professor, Kobe Gakuin University, Dept. of Physical Therapy, and Ken Sugiura, Director, Kwansei Gakuin University Human Service Center

Popoki in Print

“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
- *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: blrhyy@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





What Popoki Means to Me

Qianhui Zhao

My First Encounter with Popoki



The first time I knew about Popoki was in the school library in Kobe University. One day I went to the library to check a document for the preparation for Professor Ronni's class. Then from a bookshelf full of academic books, I was attracted by one thin but colorful book, titled "Popoki, What Color is Peace?" It looked so interesting that I started to read it. Surprisingly, I found that this book was written by Professor Ronni.

The moment I finished reading and closed the book, I was almost crying. I felt so moved because I have loved cats so much, ever since I was a child. Even after coming to Japan, I was once keeping a cat. My instinct told me, however, that a cat like Popoki will never be in the world any more. And the photo, taken with Professor Ronni and her cat made me think of the experience of keeping a cat during my undergraduate school time in Japan. Rather than sadness, I've been missing that cat a lot. It is because that was the very cat who stayed together with me during my lonely time as a foreign student in Japan. So at that moment, I couldn't help crying, even in such a quiet library. Suddenly, I realized that I had become concerned about the fate of Popoki.



Several days later, I visited Professor Ronni. I asked her about the situation of Popoki, and she answered, "Popoki is pretty good now. He joins in lots of activities every day and has made many friends." This was out of my expectation, but made me excited. "But actually," she added, "Popoki died before I started the Popoki Peace Project". Finally I got to understand that Popoki has always been living in her heart.

Photos:

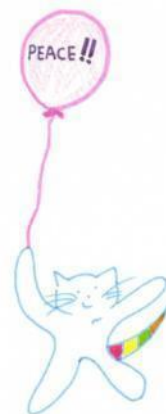
Top left and right: Cards used in a workshop showing key words about peace

Bottom: Introducing the Popoki Peace Project to high school students in Guam



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 have recently published a new 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* and *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* 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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