



CWAJ annual report

2013-2014

MARCH 2014

CWAJ PROGRAMS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAPAN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The spirit of CWAJ's mission of community service is exemplified by its programs for Japan's visually impaired community. Individuals with visual impairment (VI) are included in every activity area: Education, Scholarship and Print Show. Just how important is CWAJ's commitment to the VI? CWAJ has been there every step of the way to help VI through its unique scholarships and English language programs as more educational pathways and career options opened up for Japanese with visual impairments.

The first VI person ever awarded CWAJ's Scholarship for the Visually Impaired (SVI) in 1978 tells us how CWAJ made the difference in his life.

"I lost my eyesight when I was a college student. Fortunately, the CWAJ scholarship enabled me to continue studying at college. As I am now 65 yrs old, I will retire from the university. Once again please accept my sincerest thanks to CWAJ and VVI."

Roioichi Namai, Professor at Kaetsu University, March 2013

Scholarships for the Visually Impaired

Sixty two men and women with visual impairment have received a CWAJ Scholarship for the Visually Impaired (SVI) since 1978. SVI awards help VI persons pursue careers previously considered unattainable. Unlike CWAJ's other scholarships (see inside), SVI scholars include both men and women studying at either the undergraduate or post-graduate levels in Japan or abroad. This is the only scholarship program in Japan entirely devoted to individuals with visual impairment.

Daisuke Aiba (SVI Study in Japan 2010; PhD October 2013: Aichi University Teacher Education faculty) tells CWAJ

"I am most grateful to CWAJ for giving me recognition. Such recognition was the source of my energy to follow my dream. It would not have been possible for me to continue without giving up had it not been for your support. I hope I will be able to return what I was given some day to the community and to CWAJ."

Hands-on Art

As part of CWAJ's annual Print Show, Hands-on Art (HOA) is greatly enjoyed by both VI and sighted persons. Established in 1996, HOA features raised images of a carefully selected set of prints to help VI "see prints with fingers."

In 2013, artist Asuka Yanagisawa specially created bas-reliefs for the 58th Print Show, adding a new tactile dimension for everyone's enjoyment. Docents trained to guide VI were also available to explain the more than 200 prints on view. A HOA visitor exclaimed:

"I was given detailed information that people often fail to see. This experience was so rewarding that I thought not being able to see is not always a disadvantage."

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI):

Education Programs

Over 60 volunteers in CWAJ's largest Education Committee, the VVI, contributed hundreds of hours in 2013 to reach more than 200 individuals in Japan's VI community.

- Three English Conversation Gatherings (ECGs) provided opportunities to practice English conversation in a wide variety of venues (e.g. foreign embassies and art museums) and to learn about other cultures. Over 120 VI are invited, some traveling from as far away as Shizuoka and Tochigi Prefectures to participate in these programs.
- Forty eight weeks, 2 days each week, VVI volunteers teach English conversation at the Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind. English instruction is an integral part of job training in Japan. CWAJ's members teach in teams that include native English speakers.
- Over four days in 2013, 34 VVI members conducted mock oral exams for the Eiken English proficiency test for VI high school students at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba.
- Over 200 newsletters are sent 3 times a year in Braille, large print and via email featuring VI community news. The list of subscribers continues to grow.

Read inside this report to learn more about how your support for CWAJ makes a difference in providing opportunities and new horizons. Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers.

FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

Since April 2011 CWAJ has been supporting Fukushima victims through a number of relief projects. CWAJ hopes to continue making financial contributions to the future of the stricken area with warm understanding and support from donors at home and abroad.

Mental Health Care Center Nagomi

Within just ten months after the East Japan Great Earthquake, Mental Health Care Center Nagomi in Soma City was established to maintain and to improve mental health of victims living in temporary housing, patients with mental disorders and their families. In 2012 CWAJ donated to Nagomi a van with a wheel chair lift to facilitate counselors' home visits and transportation of patients. A white color van with the red CWAJ logo travels within the city as it serves the community. CWAJ is also covering the 120,000 yen insurance of the van in 2013 and 2014

In December 2013 CWAJ again sent Christmas gifts for children including toys, stationary, candies and other treats. A huge thank you to CWAJ members for their kind donations totaling over 40,000 yen.

Fukushima Relief Scholarship

The Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS) was launched in 2012 to help Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing students directly affected by the disasters to continue their studies. The scholarship award of 500,000 yen is almost equivalent to a full year's tuition.

Mizuho Aoki (FRS 2012) graduated in March, 2013 and passed the national examinations for nurse, public health nurse and hospital midwife. She is now working as a midwife.

Hiroko Yamada and Saiko Akiyama (FRS 2012-2013) graduating in March, 2014, will take the national exams and then begin their nursing careers. Ms Yamada reports *"The CWAJ scholarship gave me relief and hope when I was in despair after the disaster. The current state in Fukushima is far from full recovery and reconstruction but people are living with hope."*

Ms Akiyama also credits CWAJ, *"Due to my monetary situation, I could not evacuate from Fukushima and I was left with radiation fear. After the accident at the nuclear plant, I was always questioning myself whether I should stay or put my child's health first. I am thankful to CWAJ for supporting the students of Fukushima. It was easy for me to quit, but I would have had many regrets if I had. Thanks to your scholarship, regardless of the fear of radiation, I was able to pursue my studies to become a nurse."*

Fumika Kojima and Sonoko Nagasawa (FRS 2013) will continue their nursing studies in the 2014 academic year. Ms Nagasawa and her young son had to evacuate after 3/11 as their home was in an area of high radiation. Returning two years later, she decontaminated their yard at her own expense but her son's outside activities are still limited due to radiation in the area. Ms Nagasawa worked in industrial safety before entering nursing school, and her goal is to use her experience and nursing training to be an

industrial health consultant to *"support the healthy life of working women (including childbirth and child-rearing)"*.

Fukushima Art Project

CWAJ Fukushima Art Project team continues to work hard to facilitate the proposed "Asobijutsu" program initiated by Prof. Koichi Ebizuka of Tama Art University. The aim of this program is to encourage children to pursue their artistic creativity through "art as play." The Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art in Fukushima City and Junior Chamber of Commerce of Sukagawa City, Fukushima Prefecture have agreed to hold the Asobijutsu workshop with CWAJ in July 2014 at the Museum and Botan Kaikan in Sukagawa City.

Three CWAJ members participated in the prize award ceremony for the Denzen Memorial Print Exhibition held on February 9, 2014 in Sukagawa City. Out of over 3,000 submitted prints by primary and junior high school students the Denzen Prize was awarded to the best print of each division. The award is in honor of Aodo Denzen, a Sukagawa City citizen who pioneered the print etching technique in Edo period. Since 2013 an extra prize for the winners and their parents is a trip to the CWAJ Print Show provided by CWAJ. The 2014 winners will be invited to attend the CWAJ Print Show in October.



2013 CWAJ SCHOLARS

Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA)

2 scholarships of 3 million yen

ARAI, Yuki

Study program: LL.M. Cornell University (USA)

NARUI, Ryoko

Study program: MSc Medical Humanities, King's College London (UK)

Graduate Scholarship for Non-Japanese Women to Study in Japan (NJG)

2 scholarships of 2 million yen

SHAO, Dan (People's Republic of China)

Study Program: MA Contemporary Literary Studies, University of Tokyo

AKHTER, Nasrin (People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Study Program: PhD Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Yamagata University



CWAJ-Tokyo American Club Women's Group Non-Japanese Graduate Scholarship

1 scholarship of 2 million yen

BASU, Mrittika (India)

Study Program: PhD, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

Scholarship for the Visually Impaired to Study in Japan (SVI-SJ)

2 scholarships of 2 million yen

HATANNO, Hiroki

Study Program: BA Law, Chuo University

KAMIJO, Haruo

Study Program: PhD Advanced Nanosciences and Biosciences, Graduate School of Innovative Life Sciences, University of Toyama

Scholarship to the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC)

1 scholarship of 2 million yen

PRICE, Deborah (USA)

BA Japanese, MA Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

4 scholarships of 0.5 million yen

Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing

AKIYAMA, Saiko 4th year student

YAMADA, Hiroko 4th year student

KOJIMA, Fumika 3rd year student

NAGASAWA, Sonoko 2nd year student

CWAJ 60th Anniversary Overseas Scholars

1 scholarship of 180,000 yen, 5yrs

GAYAGAY, Sandra Glynn (Philippines)
Study Program: MD, School of Medicine, Saint Louis University, Baguio

EMPOWERING SCHOLARS FOR A BRIGHT TOMORROW

"Receiving the travel grant from CWAJ in 1969 to study at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre changed my life" said noted casting director and film producer Yoko Narahashi, guest speaker at CWAJ's 2013 Scholarship Luncheon. Ms Narahashi founded United Performers Studio and UPS Academy to teach method acting to non-native English speakers, which has established her role



as a bridge from Japan to Hollywood. The successful movies from "The Last Samurai" to "Emperor" show the involvement of Japanese actors and actresses in Hollywood films that could not be seen before.

Over 60 years, CWAJ has evolved from post-war support of the prohibitively large travel expenses for Japanese to study overseas to today's scholarships awarded to exceptionally talented Japanese women studying abroad, non-Japanese women studying in Japan, and both male and female visually impaired students. CWAJ's Scholarship and Education programs,

based on donations and support of the annual Print Show, has helped launch the careers of nearly 800 scholars including 62 visually impaired scholars, 332 women awarded scholarships in other programs, and more than 400 students who received travel grants before CWAJ's full scholarship program began in 1972. These scholars have become remarkable leaders at the forefront of education, human rights, medical research, media, environmental science, etc.

Having received initial support from CWAJ, many scholars go on to distinguished academic careers in a wide variety of fields. Dr. Sumru Keceli, 2011 Non-Japanese Graduate (NJG) scholar from Turkey, has recently been awarded a two-year JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Foreign Researchers from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. "I was not expecting to receive this prestigious and competitive award" wrote Ms Keceli in appreciation to CWAJ. She will continue her research on how our brains process incoming sound stimuli at the National Institute for Physiological Sciences in Okazaki City, Aichi Prefecture.

CWAJ's Scholarships for the Visually Impaired (SVI) program was the first of its kind in Japan. Shingo Morii, 2012 SVI Scholarship in Memory of Yasuhide Oka, noted that "Being awarded your scholarship was a great encouragement. Thanks to CWAJ, I was able to receive my PhD." Mr. Morii is developing software and equipment to enable the visually impaired to create graphic images, thereby enabling visually impaired students to learn science and mathematics and "to sweep away the view that you can't do it because you can't see."

In the aftermath of March 2011, CWAJ moved quickly to find a way to help the disaster-hit areas by doing what does best; providing educational support for young people dedicated to serving the community. The Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS) has been awarded to five students in the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing since it began in 2012 and scholarships will be awarded again in 2014. Read more about these students in the Fukushima Relief Projects section (pg 2).

CWAJ PRINT SHOW



The 59th (2014) CWAJ Print Show will be held on Friday 17th - Sunday 19th October 2014 at Tokyo American Club

Enquiries: PrintShow@cwaj.org

"CWAJ has made immeasurable contributions to Japan's prints and printmaking," said centenarian artist SHINODA Toko at the Opening of the 58th CWAJ Print Show. "This women's organization has done and continues to do an invaluable service to the art world and the community," she added. Shinoda and her artwork were one of the highlights of last year's Print Show as we celebrated the artist's 100th birthday with a special



exhibition of 16 prints. Another highlight in 2013 was the 3rd CWAJ Print Show in Kobe, held at the Kobe Club in collaboration with the 2013 Kobe Biennale.

The Associate Show, exhibited at Tokyo American Club's Fred Harris Gallery, is held in tandem with the Print Show and offers in-depth explorations of focused topics. In 2013, the Associate Show featured work in other media by

renowned print artists: tea bowls by IKEDA Ryoji, sculptures by OKUBO Sumiko, glass paintings by TSUBOUCHI Yoshiko, and oil paintings by YAMANAKA Gen. In 2014, to celebrate the registration of Washoku in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, our Associate Show will present art works with a food theme.

The CWAJ Print Show is Japan's largest annual exhibition and sale of original contemporary *hanga*, or Japanese prints and one of the longest-running shows devoted to this type of art. The first Print Show, in 1956, featured 91 contemporary woodblock prints by 39 artists. In 2013, the 58th Print Show presented 194 prints by 190 artists.

The Print Show is CWAJ's main fundraiser. The proceeds from the sale of prints and products directly benefit CWAJ Scholarship Programs and Fukushima Relief Projects. In addition to its scholarships and projects, CWAJ also works to support and promote the

development of *hanga* as well. The Young Printmaker Award, started in 2005, continues to support budding print artists through a grant award and displaying of their prints at the Print Show. The second Artist-in-Residence, MOMMA Hidemi, spent two highly creative months at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Canada, in 2013. Some of the prints she produced during her residency will be exhibited at the 59th (2014) CWAJ Print Show.

2014 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award
1 award of 500,000 yen

OKADA Ikumi

Tama Art University Graduate School, 2nd year student

Ms Okada plans to use the award money to purchase a *mokuhanga* (woodcut) printing press to continue her artistic production and research of *ura-bori* (carving from the back of the wood block) technique.

2013 CWAJ Artist-in-Residence Program

1 award of 800,000 yen

MOMMA, Hidemi

MFA Musashino Art University
Instructor at Miwada Gakuen Junior High and High School; The University Museum, The University of Tokyo

Cultural Programs

The CWAJ Cultural Programs provide enjoyable learning events for the community at large and are usually conducted in English.

There were two cultural programs in 2013. On May 14 "Kimono Magic" was held at the International House of Japan in Roppongi. The central idea of this event was to showcase the use of kimono using creative new ideas. Many members attended wearing kimono and kimono fabric creations that added to the overall enthusiasm for the event. Photos showcasing the event and the members who participated were later compiled into a special photo album to commemorate the event.



The full moon of autumn is traditionally a time to listen to bamboo flute music. The second cultural program of the year was an evening of Chinese flute music by Mingjyun Wang on September 18 at Densho Hall in Shibuya. For many in the audience, this was their first time to hear Chinese Flute music in a live concert. The audience response was very enthusiastic. The concert was also an opportunity to introduce a wider audience to the upcoming October Print Show as well as other CWAJ activities.

The two combined events contributed ¥ 830,500 to CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs.

About CWAJ

Founded in 1949, the College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) continues to promote education and cross-cultural exchange through the CWAJ scholarships, the Annual Print Show and other programs that benefit the community. A volunteer, not-for-profit organization, CWAJ's 450 members from 30 different countries work together in a unique system of pairing Japanese and non-Japanese members for leading every aspect of the organization. Offering opportunities for women from all over the world to share unique cultural experiences with their Japanese peers, CWAJ provides a long-term link with Japan as well as the immediate benefits of a wide range of activities in and around Tokyo.

Interested in joining CWAJ?
Please contact membership@cwaj.org for more information.

The first cultural event of 2014 will be a showing of the movie, "Inside Hana's Suitcase". The event will take place on May 11 from 13:00-16:00 at the B1 seminar room of the Ohmae@Work Building in Rokubancho, Chiyoda-ku. Anyone interested in this program is welcome to attend. The second cultural program in the fall of 2014 will focus on Washoku, the traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese. Washoku was granted UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage designation in December 2013. For more information contact CulturalProgram@cwaj.org.

Education Programs

Children's English Circle

In 2013 CWAJ volunteers have held 30 classes for returning Japanese elementary school children to assist them to retain their English skills. Our volunteers use creative resources of art, craft, games, drama, reading and writing activities to provide a fun environment in which the children can feel comfortable to use and share their English.

Foreign Students' Circle

Forty-three foreign students from 12 countries participated in Foreign Students' Circle programs in 2013. The programs in 2013 provided students with a variety of Japanese cultural experiences: Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day celebration) with ikebana workshop, Choyo-nosekku (Autumn Season Festival) with tea ceremony, attending Noh and Kabuki performances, Gyokudo Art Museum and Kushi Kanzashi Museum (Japanese Combs and Ornamental Hairpins Museum) in Okutama, and practicing karuta (Japanese card game). CWAJ volunteers assist foreign students seeking guidance and friendship while living in Japan.



Volunteers for the Visually Impaired

Please see front page.

Special Fundraising Events

Raffle

The Raffle drawing took place on the last day of the 58th CWAJ Print Show. Tickets had been sold up until the last moment and it was a thrilling moment when the winner of the Grand Prize of two United Airlines round-trip business class tickets to the USA was announced. There was an array of other wonderful prizes donated by Bree, 90Plus Wine Club, Eastern Carpets, Kato Gallery, Grand Hyatt Tokyo, Chez Kusama, Elio Locanda, International Dental Clinic, Aromatique Beauty House, Toys"R"Us, and Akane An. Thanks to the

generosity of these raffle sponsors, a total of 833,500 yen was raised. A raffle will be held again in 2014.

Friendly Crafters Group

Over the past year members of the Friendly Crafters group participated in many different workshops and outings, sharing new ideas and learning new craft skills. At the December CWAJ Luncheon, 25 beautiful hand-made items were offered as raffle prizes, with the raffle raising over 161,000 yen towards Fukushima Relief projects.



You can make a difference!

By supporting the CWAJ Scholarship and Education Programs and the CWAJ Fukushima Relief Projects you can make a genuine and long lasting impact on the lives of individuals and communities both in Japan and beyond. CWAJ welcomes and accepts donations of any amount throughout the year.

Please contact Donation Co-Chairs:

Barbara Hancock, Tomoe Kondo
donations@cwaj.org

For donations by bank transfer:

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ
Meguro Branch (680)

Savings Account: No. 0259076

Account Name: Ippan Shadan Hojin CWAJ

Japan Foundation

CWAJ is pleased to announce that the Japan Foundation has accepted our application for Designated Donation status for the CWAJ Cultural Exchange Scholarship Program for Women, which will allow us to award scholarships to graduate students who have chosen to study abroad and to promote Japan's unique cultural contributions globally. This new program offers donors like you an option for a possible tax benefit. You may request this option by checking the box next to "Tax deduction requested" on the donation request form.



College Women's
Association of Japan

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