



COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN

CWAJ annual report

2014-2015



APRIL 2015

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CWAJ PRINT SHOW

Message from CWAJ's President

Dear Friends,

Across the globe, educated women are powerful agents of social change, transforming families, institutions and societies. As Kofi Annan has said, the education of girls and young women is the "single highest returning investment in the world today". For more than 60 years, College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ) has provided scholarships and travel grants to women wanting to pursue university study outside their home countries; to visually impaired men and women from Japan; and, more recently, to nursing students from Fukushima. These scholarships are funded by individual and corporate donations as well as the proceeds from the CWAJ Print Show, an annual exhibition and sale of Japanese prints which attracts worldwide acclaim.

CWAJ also provides educational services in the community for children and adults, including innovative programs for the visually impaired community. There is, additionally, a wide variety of cross-cultural opportunities for its members, fostering long-term friendships between Japanese and international women. CWAJ fully self-funds all operating expenses as well as its community outreach and member programs. 100 per cent of all donations go to the Scholarship and Education Programs.

In 2015 we celebrate the 60th Print Show with exhibitions in Tokyo and Kobe, followed by Cape Cod in 2016. It is our hope that this landmark event will attract significant financial support to enable us to offer a greater number of scholarships and to ensure a sustainable future for CWAJ. We deeply appreciate your previous donations. We are delighted to

announce that the Japan Foundation has granted us Designated Donation status, enabling us to offer a greater number of scholarships in the future. We have also received a generous grant from The Tokyo Club to be used for the CWAJ 60th Print Show Anniversary Scholarship for a non-Japanese woman studying for a graduate degree in fine arts or art history in Japan, and also to fund a history book commemorating 60 Years of the CWAJ Print Show.

It is a privilege to be President of this impressive organization with such a proud history. I look forward to meeting many of you at our anniversary events this year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nussbaum
CWAJ President

60th CWAJ PRINT SHOW - Save the Dates -

CWAJ has held the Print Show every year since 1956. This exhibition and sale of original artworks serves two purposes: to showcase the fascinating beauty of contemporary Japanese prints for an international audience and to secure the funds for the scholarships and grants that CWAJ has so far provided to more than 800 students and artists. The image at the top of this page displays the catalogue covers from all 59 past Print Shows.

To celebrate the 60th CWAJ Print Show, and to show our appreciation to the printmaking community and encourage its further development, CWAJ established the 60th Print Show

anniversary competition for young artists of 40 years and under. This year's landmark show will feature the top 60 competition entries as well as a special exhibition, "*Kanreki: A 60-year Journey*", that traces the history of the Print Show in approximately 160 prints contributed by 130 invited artists including the works of two who participated in the 1st CWAJ Print Show.

The Associate Show, which is held for three weeks concurrently with the other exhibitions, will present the works of celebrated artists who contributed to the direction and the reputation of the show in its early years.

Inquiries : PrintShow@cwaj.org

The 60th CWAJ Print Show Tokyo

October 30 (Fri)-November 1 (Sun), 2015
At Tokyo American Club

Kobe

(In collaboration with Kobe Biennale)
November 6 (Fri)-8 (Sun), 2015
At Kobe Club

Associate Show

October 19 (Mon)-November 8 (Sun), 2015
At Fred Harris Gallery, Tokyo American Club

Travelling Show U.S.A.

June 23 (Thu)-September 4 (Sun), 2016
At Highfield Hall & Gardens
(Falmouth, Massachusetts)

59th CWAJ PRINT SHOW

The 59th CWAJ Print Show took place October 16 – 19, 2014 at the Tokyo American Club. The exhibition and sale of contemporary Japanese prints presented 201 artworks, most of which were selected by a prestigious jury, with the balance contributed by 39 invited artists. One of the most significant features of the CWAJ Print Show is its beautiful catalogue — a full-color, bilingual publication. The catalogue cover in 2014, the year of the horse, was Nakayama Tadashi's elaborate and elegant woodcut, *Running in the Blue Afternoon*.

Born in 1927, Nakayama exhibited in the CWAJ Print Show 43 times as an invited



artist. He was very supportive of CWAJ's mission and repeatedly donated the proceeds from the sale of his works, enabling CWAJ to fund several

scholarships. He firmly refused to disclose his name as a donor. Sadly, Nakayama passed away in the summer of 2014. CWAJ takes this opportunity to express its deep sympathy and heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable contribution to this organization.

In recognition of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage" status conferred by UNESCO upon *washoku* (Japanese cuisine), the 2014 Associate Show highlighted the works of several print artists who celebrate the world of food: Anza Ayumi, Kishi Yukie, Kim Sohee, Miyamoto Shoji and Nene Noriko.

Hands-on Art (HOA), a unique program designed for visually impaired visitors, is a regular feature of the CWAJ Print Show. Each year five to seven prints are chosen and made into tactile prints called "raised images".

To support young print artists, CWAJ established the Art Grant program in 1985,



the Young Printmaker Award (YPA) in 2005, and the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program in 2011. The works of the 2014 YPA recipient, Okada Ikumi, and the 2011 recipient, Hirose Risa, were exhibited at the 59th CWAJ Print Show together with artworks by the 2013 AIR recipient Momma Hidemi.

2015 CWAJ Young Printmaker Award (YPA)

1 award of 500,000 yen

MASUDA Nao

MFA, Tokyo Zokei University

Ms Masuda will use the award to purchase a small intaglio press, hold a solo exhibition and to produce a collection of her graduation works.

FUKUSHIMA RELIEF PROJECTS

CWAJ responded to the 3/11 disasters in the Fukushima area by initiating a number of programs which align with the organization's mission of supporting education, art and cross-cultural understanding. CWAJ remains committed to providing support for those who continue to suffer.

Nagomi Mental Health Care Center

CWAJ's first relief project was to donate a van to the Nagomi Mental Health Care Center in Soma City. This provides transportation for patients and facilitates home visits by mental care counselors. CWAJ continues to provide support by covering the insurance and inspection fee costs for this van.

Fukushima Relief Scholarship

The Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS) supports students in the Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing. This scholarship of 500,000 yen, almost equivalent to a full year's tuition, will be awarded again in 2015 for the fourth time. The first FRS scholars have gone on to pass the national exams in nursing and public health, and are dedicated to helping their local community. Hiroko Yamada, currently a public health nurse supporting evacuation refugees, noted, "The scholarship supported me not only financially but mentally as well because my family was in the depths of despair after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Everyone at CWAJ gave me words of

encouragement that not only helped me then but still hearten me today."

Fukushima Art Projects

Asobijutsu (art as play) was held on July 27, 2014 at Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art in Fukushima City, and on July 28 at Botan Kaikan in Sukagawa City. Professor Koichi Ebizuka of Tama Art University led both programs, which gave the children involved a unique, creative art experience. In "Let's draw unique pictures" at the Museum of Art, children used various types of tools such as chisels, glue and even their feet to create art.



Some of the children's work was then exhibited at the museum. In "Let's draw myself" at Botan Kaikan, the children made their own image in cardboard. Each program was attended by about 40 children as well as six FRS scholars whose nursing skills came in handy treating the children's cuts! Two years in the planning, this project was well-received and highly successful. CWAJ is planning to hold more *Asobijutsu* programs in 2015 in different locations in Fukushima.

The Denzen Award is given to the best print from more than 3,000 works submitted in the elementary and junior high school divisions in the Denzen

Memorial Print Exhibition, held annually in Sukagawa City, Fukushima. The two winners of the 2014 Denzen Award had their prints exhibited at the CWAJ Print Show last October and were invited to attend with their parents. The 2015 Denzen Award winners will be exhibited in the 60th Print Show.

English Program for Children

CWAJ has a long history of providing cross-cultural English programs for children and in 2014 we were pleased to use that expertise to brighten up the lives of children in Fukushima by introducing fun English classes.

On July 20, CWAJ volunteers led two sessions of classes at PEP Kids Koriyama, an indoor playground where children play and also participate in a variety of programs without fear of possible exposure to nuclear radiation. A total of 40 children aged from three to seven took part in easy English lessons with games, songs and storytelling. One boy shouted out, "*Eigo wa tanoshii*" (English is fun!). The day before, CWAJ joined in the Manasobi Summer Festival, hosting an English corner where children could do crafts, play games, and listen to books read in English. More than 50 children took part. These programs will continue in 2015.



CWAJ SCHOLARSHIP

- Pathways to Global Citizenship



To develop global citizens, we must embrace diversity, including nationalities and gender," said Dr. Masako Egawa, 1984 scholarship recipient, who addressed CWAJ's annual scholarship luncheon

about her experiences studying abroad, offering straightforward advice on how to encourage Japanese to be global citizens. Dr. Egawa was Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo since 2009 until March 2015, the first woman to hold such a distinguished position. She concluded by thanking CWAJ for having set her on her own path to global citizenship.

CWAJ's scholarship programs, funded by donations as well as proceeds from the annual Print Show, have helped nearly 800 students to get access to overseas study opportunities. In 2014 eight students received CWAJ scholarships, including two with connections to Syria and one from Bangladesh.

With the establishment in 1978 of the first scholarship in Japan for visually

impaired men and women, CWAJ has paved the way for further education and career opportunities for more than 60 individuals who are visually disabled. Makoto Ogoda, 2005 scholarship recipient, never gave up on his dream to become a lawyer. After much effort, he finally passed the bar exam on his fifth try. In his subsequent career, he has had to deal with prejudice but has gradually become recognized for his achievements. He has found that his visual handicap gives him special intuition in his work. Based on his experiences, he has authored a semi-autobiographical novel, *Zenmo no boku ga bengoshi ni natta wake* ("The reason a blind guy like me became a lawyer") which was dramatized on TV in December with great success.

In September 2014, we welcomed CWAJ's 60th Anniversary overseas scholar, Sandra Glynn Gayagay, to celebrate the completion of her 5-year medical coursework. While in Japan, she received the happy news of having passed the national exams. Sandra was glad to be able to meet CWAJ members and learn more about our programs. She expressed her deep appreciation to CWAJ for supporting her dream of becoming a doctor so as to be of service to the

marginalized in the Philippines who have little access to health care.



These are just a few examples of how CWAJ scholars in Japan and around the world are actively working to make the world a better place. Please see the full list of 2014 Scholars below and read more about them on the CWAJ website. Read about the Fukushima Relief Scholarship on page 2.

On the occasion of the 60th Print Show, it is important to note that it is largely the proceeds from this event which have enabled CWAJ to continue awarding scholarships for so many years. As the Japanese economy remains strained within a challenging global environment, CWAJ has had to reduce the number of scholarships. We hope to be able to count on your support of the Print Show to help more students to access the path to leadership and global citizenship. We also welcome donations of any size at any time.

2014 CWAJ SCHOLARS

Graduate Scholarship for Japanese Women to Study Abroad (SA)

One scholarship of 3 million yen

TAKEUCHI, Akiko

Study program: Master of Public Health, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (USA)

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

Two scholarships of 1.5 million yen each

IWATA, Shotaro

Study Program: MS, Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University

NAKAMURA, Masaya

Study Program: PhD, Educational Sociology, Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences, Ritsumeikan University



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

One scholarship of 2 million yen

RIFAI, Ghamra

(Syrian Arab Republic)

Study Program: PhD, Advanced Material Science and Technology, Niigata University

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

One scholarship of 2 million yen

WAHAB, Luna

(People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Study Program: PhD, Physiology, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, National Institute for Physiological Sciences

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

One scholarship of 2 million yen

MAZZA-HILWAY, Philomena (USA)

Study Program: PhD, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, University of Chicago

Fukushima Relief Scholarship (FRS)

Two scholarships of 0.5 million yen each
Fukushima Medical University School of Nursing

NAGASAWA, Sonoko 3rd year student

TAKAHASHI, Sayaka 3rd year student

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Volunteers for the Visually Impaired (VVI)

Throughout 2014 CWAJ continued providing innovative programs for the Japanese visually impaired community. At the Japan Vocational Center for the Blind, volunteers taught English conversation twice a week as part of the students' job training.



At the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba, high school students were helped to prepare for the Eiken English proficiency test. English Conversation Gatherings provided opportunities to practice English conversation on a wide range of subjects: firsthand stories about travelling abroad by visually impaired guests; the Philippines; and Austrian Christmas traditions. Three issues of the VVI Newsletter were distributed by email, in Braille and large print, to more than 200 visually impaired individuals.

Children's English Circle (CEC)

Japanese elementary school children who have lived abroad attend CEC to retain their English language skills. Crafts, games, reading and writing activities provided a fun environment in which the children could use and share their English in 32 after-school classes in 2014

Foreign Students' Circle (FSC)

Foreign students from 18 countries enjoyed experiencing Japanese culture in programs arranged by FSC. Seven programs were held in 2014 which introduced Bonseki (miniature sand landscapes), traditional Japanese wedding, Imperial Palace garden, Kabuki, Tea ceremony, and Yabusame (Japanese archery on horseback). FSC volunteers also assist foreign students with guidance and friendship during their stay in Japan.



CULTURAL PROGRAMS

To promote cross-cultural learning, CWAJ holds monthly luncheons and occasional cultural events as well as offering a range of special interest groups for its members. The two cultural events organized in 2014 were very different but equally enriching. On May 10, CWAJ hosted a special screening of the documentary *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, based on the book by Karen Levine, the moving story of a suitcase which had belonged to Hana Brady, a young Jewish Czech girl who was sent to Auschwitz. The suitcase was obtained by the Director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center, Fumiko Ishioka, who wanted to find a way of teaching Japanese children about the plight of Jewish children in the Second World War. Ms Ishioka attended the CWAJ screening and spoke about her personal experiences in this poignant odyssey, including the discovery of Hana's brother in Canada.

On October 31, at a special lunch event, "The Wonderful World of Washoku", Yoshiki Tsuji, President of the Tsuji Culinary Institute, spoke about traditional Japanese cuisine and why it deserves the UNESCO "Intangible Cultural Heritage" status. His talk was followed by an authentic kaiseki lunch at Kinsui-tei at Hotel Chinzanso.



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.

Monthly luncheon programs with impressive speakers reinforce our mission of nurturing women leaders across the globe. In CWAJ's special interest groups, members have fun learning and sharing their cultures in a wide variety of programs that include ceramics, hiking, foreign language conversation, crafting, choral singing, hiking, and book discussion.



OTHER FUNDRAISING

In addition to Print Show proceeds and donations, funds are raised via an annual raffle which is drawn on the final day of the Print Show. CWAJ would like to express its appreciation to all sponsors of raffle prizes, particularly Delta Airlines, which contributed two round-trip business class tickets to the US. Funds are also raised via the Cultural Programs, and VVI and CEC activities. The Friendly Crafters group also held a raffle in December, offering beautiful hand-crafted items as prizes.

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 donations of any amount throughout the year.

Japan Foundation

In 2014, the Japan Foundation approved CWAJ's Designated Donation application for the CWAJ Cultural Exchange Scholarship Program for Women, which enables us to award more scholarships to women graduate students who have chosen to study outside their homeland and to promote Japan's unique cultural contributions globally. This program offers donors the possibility of a tax benefit.

For further information about making a donation to CWAJ, please contact one of the Donations/Sponsorships Co-Chairs, Michiyo Ikenaga or Carmen Ohtaki, donations@cwaj.org



College Women's
Association of Japan

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